



MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025

## Combs jury to weigh sordid details

The music mogul's trial is full of graphic accounts, but are they enough to convict?

By RICHARD WINTON

One of the most sensational celebrity trials in decades is expected early this week to go to jurors, who will decide whether music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs is responsible for a shocking series of alleged sex crimes and conspiracies dating back years.

The trial in New York has been marked by graphic testimony from inside Combs' music empire, alleging a pattern of violence, threats and cover-ups that prosecutors have compared to a mob-like criminal enterprise.

A key question posed in the case is whether Combs — who was once worth more than \$1 billion — used his power and money to conceal alleged crimes, often with the help of his sprawling organization.

Prosecutors hammered home this alleged conspiracy in closing arguments. Assistant U.S. Atty. Christy lavik told jurors Combs counted on silence and "shame" to enable and prolong his abuse and used a "small army" of employees to harm women and cover it up, according to the Associated Press.

Combs "doesn't take no for an answer," she added.

But legal experts have said the case may not be quite the slam-dunk that the tabloid headlines suggest.

Combs' defense has freely acknowledged that the mogul behaved badly. They claim, however, that the charges against him are overblown and pointed out that some key witnesses did not report Combs' misdeeds at the time.

"The theory of the defense seems to be that Diddy did really horrible things, but they don't meet the elements of the crimes charged," said legal expert Jeff Chemerinsky, a former federal prosecutor.

On Friday, Combs' attorney labeled the prosecution's case "exaggerated" and hammered some of his [See Combs, A10]



GEORGE R. WATSON Los Angeles Times

A FRIAR at the damaged Mission Santa Barbara after the earthquake.

## Lessons from a 1925 earthquake resonate

By RONG-GONG LIN II

One hundred years ago Sunday, downtown Santa Barbara was devastated by an earthquake centered just offshore.

The main commercial district, State Street, was in ruins. Some buildings collapsed — the vulnerability in their designs laid bare by the power of Mother Nature. About a dozen people died.

Yet, despite the destruction, the great Santa Barbara earthquake remains relatively obscure, seismically speaking, even in a state notorious for its shaking.

There are a number of reasons why, including the comparatively low death toll and concerted efforts by contemporary civic boosters and business interests to downplay the extent of the damage.

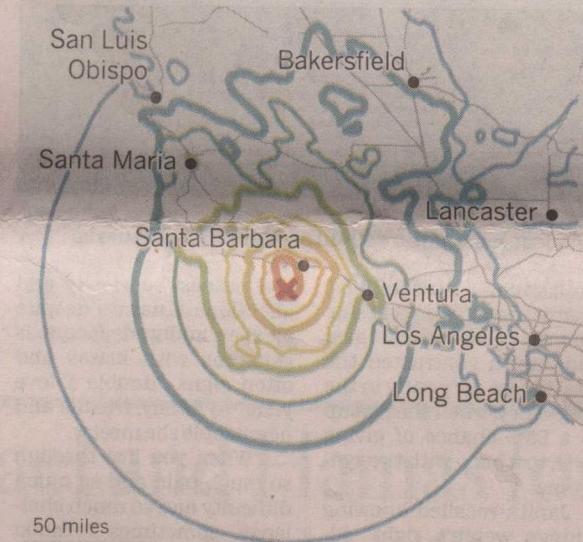
But in a state where the next "Big One" is an always looming threat, lessons learned from the Santa Barbara quake should still resonate — even 100 years later, experts say.

Structural engineers, for instance, have long considered brick buildings to be one of the deadliest types of structures in an earthquake. And the Santa Barbara temblor revealed just how dangerous they can be.

[See Earthquake, A14]

### The 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake

On June 29, 1925, an earthquake of a magnitude between 6.5 and 6.8 struck the Santa Barbara coast, destroying much of the city's main business district. Damage was reported as far away as Ventura.



Intensity

Very strong	Strong	Moderate
Light	Weak	

The location of the epicenter is an estimate. Alternate theories place the epicenter southeast of Santa Barbara.  
U.S. Geological Survey

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

## After crucial vote, Trump's bill is teed up for big finish

Plan to cut \$1 trillion in social spending advances. Democrats endeavor to delay.

By LISA MASCARO,  
KEVIN FREKING  
AND JOEY CAPPELLETTI

### WASHINGTON

Hours before a tumultuous nearing-midnight vote on President Trump's package of tax breaks, spending cuts and increased deportation money, a Republican senator stood on the chamber floor and implored the plan's critics, "Read the bill."

After the dramatic 51-49 roll call on a key procedural vote that advanced the bill late Saturday, Senate Democrats did exactly that.

Seemingly unable to stop the march toward passage of the 940-page bill by Trump's Fourth of July deadline, the minority party in Congress is using the tools at its disposal to delay and drag out the process.

The Saturday night vote came after a tumultuous session, dragging on for hours as holdout senators huddled for negotiations. In the end, two Republicans

opposed the motion to proceed to debate, joining all Democrats and independents.

"If Senate Republicans won't tell the American people what's in this bill, then Democrats are going to force this chamber to read it from start to finish," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York declared Sunday.

By Sunday midafternoon some 16 hours later, the clerk's reading of the nearly foot-high bill was done.

And within moments the Senate launched into debate, expected to stretch late into Sunday night with at least 10 hours of speeches. The slow-walking tactic points to difficult days ahead.

"It's taken awhile to get here," said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the Senate Budget Committee chairman, "but we'll have a debate worthy of this great country."

Republicans, who control the House and Senate, are closer to passing Trump's signature domestic policy package, yet there is political unease. Democrats immediately launched fresh challenges against it, decrying the way they say Republicans [See Bill, A6]

## Blue Shield's out-of-state new parent stirs alarm

By LAURENCE DARMIENTO

Last year, regulators approved a request by Blue Shield of California, the state's third-largest health insurer, to restructure and establish a new parent corporation in Delaware.

The San Francisco nonprofit got the go-ahead from the Department of Managed Health Care, or DMHC, to create an entity called Ascendium Inc., which is now the out-of-state corporate parent of Blue Shield. The insurer said that the restructuring would allow it to better serve its members

"with less bureaucracy and faster results, while making health care more affordable."

But the transaction has raised alarm among a former high-level Blue Shield executive and consumer advocates, who complain that it was carried out with no public oversight and could allow the insurer to transfer money to a Delaware parent company with few strings attached. The activists claim that some of that money could be used to boost its spending on charitable endeavors.

The company has accrued a surplus of more than [See Insurer, A7]

## Iranians arrested in immigration crackdown

Some of those being detained by federal agents have lived for decades in the U.S.

By KIM CHANDLER,  
CLAIRE RUSH  
AND ELLIOT SPAGAT

gation and Customs Enforcement officers handcuffed and took her away, her family said.

Kashanian arrived in 1978 on a student visa and applied for asylum, fearing retaliation for her father's support of the U.S.-backed Shah. She lost her bid, but she was allowed to remain

tention center in Basile, La., while her family tries to get information.

Other Iranians are also getting arrested by immigration authorities after decades in the United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security won't say how many people have been arrested, but U.S.

or not they're linked to any threat, and then arrest them and deport them, which is very concerning," said Ryan Costello, policy director of the National Iranian American Council, an advocacy group.

Homeland Security did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment on



# Building flaws exposed in 1925 still exist

[Earthquake, from A1] dangerous brick buildings built in that era could be.

Yet for decades, little was done to force brick buildings around California to be retrofitted — inaction that had deadly consequences, from the 1933 Long Beach earthquake all the way to the 2003 San Simeon earthquake, when two women were killed as they fled a brick building in Paso Robles that was originally built in the late 1800s, according to seismologist Lucy Jones, a Caltech research associate.

One of the biggest lessons, Jones said, is that "we are afraid to tell people what to do with their own property, so we've always sort of gone for the minimum." That's how a building managed to go without a crucial earthquake retrofit for more than a century before its brick walls collapsed in 2003.

Many cities eventually took action to address these vulnerabilities through mandatory retrofit ordinances — Los Angeles in 1981, Santa Barbara around 1990, and San Francisco in 1992, the last of which acted after car commuters were crushed to death when a brick wall collapsed during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

But other Southern California cities still haven't acted to require unretrofitted brick buildings be fixed or torn down — including many in the Inland Empire, home to the infamous San Andreas fault.

Many cities have also not acted on requiring retrofits of other types of potentially vulnerable buildings, including those that have certain flaws to their concrete or steel frames.

In Santa Barbara, for instance, there isn't a law requiring seismic retrofit of apartment buildings with a flimsy ground floor — often held up above a carport or garage.

These "soft-story" buildings, whose vulnerabilities are well known, are the target of mandatory retrofit laws in cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"I know it's been talked about in Santa Barbara, but nothing has ever come of it," said structural engineer Sage Shingle, a member of the Structural Engineers Assn. of Southern California and a principal at T&S Structural. Not requiring these buildings to be strengthened, "of course, it makes Santa Barbara more vulnerable than it could be," he said.

A century ago, Santa Barbara also saw significant damage to single-family homes that weren't braced and bolted down and slid off their foundations — a structural flaw that still exists for many homeowners today. (A state program offers grants to entice homeowners to resolve the issue.)

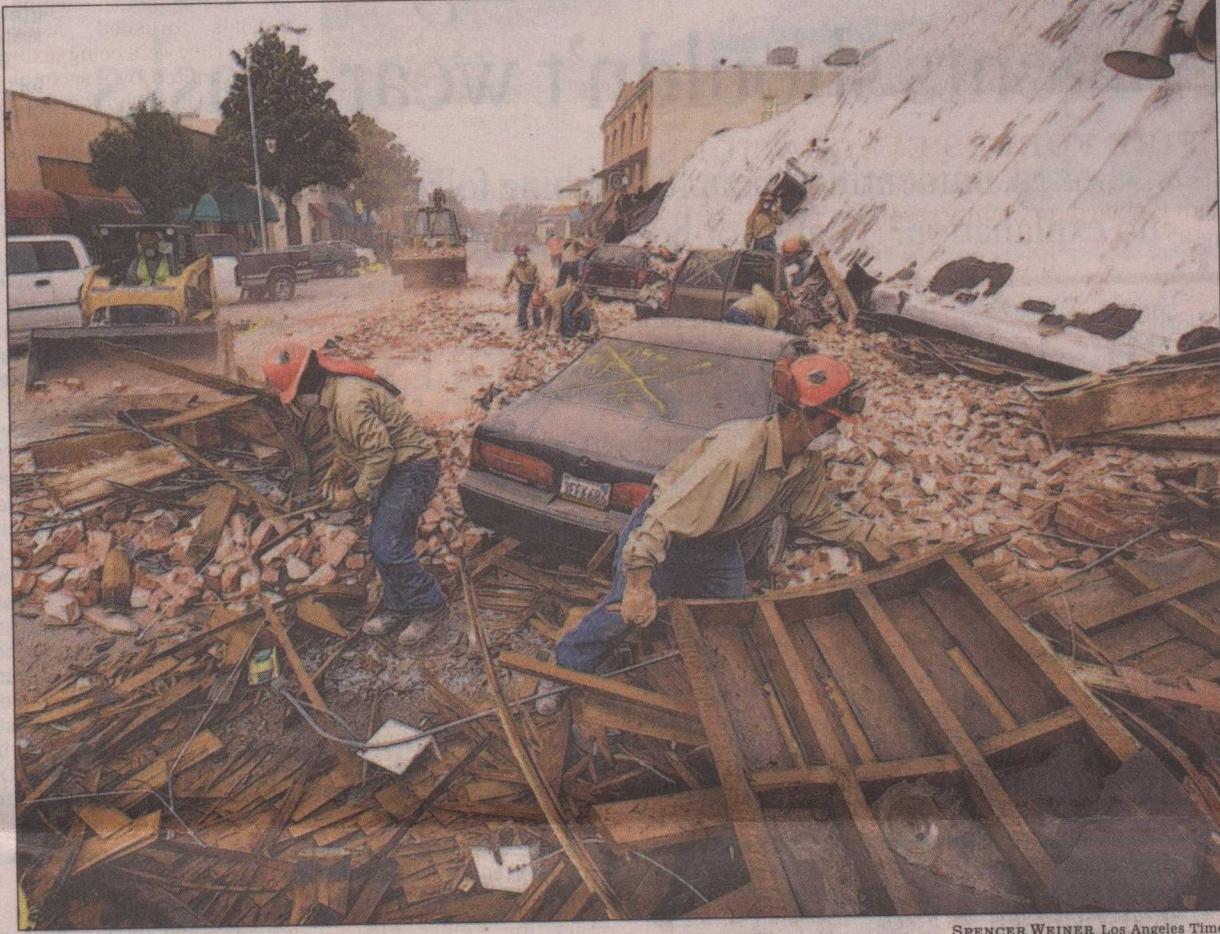
But the most vivid damage from the 1925 earthquake was the collapse of brick and stone along State Street.

The four-story Hotel Californian, which had opened about a week before the earthquake, saw its exterior brick walls "peeled away from the wood floors," Shingle said.

In Santa Barbara, "there



Los Angeles Times



SPENCER WEINER, Los Angeles Times

DAMAGE from the Santa Barbara earthquake in 1925, top, and the San Simeon quake in Paso Robles, Calif., in 2003, above. Decades apart, both disasters showed how unretrofitted buildings can still put lives at risk.

were a couple places where just the facade falling onto the sidewalk actually killed people," said architect Greg Rech, president of the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara.

The historic Arlington Hotel was also severely damaged in the 1925 earthquake. Opened in 1911 to replace a predecessor that burned down in 1909, it was rebuilt with a water tank as storage for future firefighting efforts, Shingle said. But when the earthquake's shaking hit the weight of that tank, "the mass of it just pulled the building apart right there and collapsed that area of the building," Shingle said. Two hotel guests died.

A century ago, the science of earthquakes was still in its infancy. It might be hard to imagine today, but before 1925, "there was still a debate

at that time about how severe earthquake hazard was in Southern California, and Los Angeles, in particular," said Susan Hough, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

"There were two camps: One was arguing that there was significant earthquake hazard in the Los Angeles area. And another camp was arguing that there were earthquakes, but that hazard was only moderate," Hough said.

The 1925 earthquake didn't settle the debate, Hough said. Estimated to be somewhere between magnitude 6.5 and 6.8, the Santa Barbara tremor came the same year as an earthquake in Quebec, Canada — now estimated to be magnitude 6.2. But the reach of the Quebec earthquake covered a wider area, which we now

understand is because the rocks in eastern North America are older and allow seismic waves to travel more effectively than in California.

But at the time, the smaller geographical reach

of the shaking around Santa Barbara led some to argue that, essentially, earthquakes were a bigger problem for Quebec than Southern California. The argument was, "Yeah, you have earthquakes in California, but the effects aren't as wide," Hough said.

"In terms of public awareness and risk reduction, 1925 didn't move the needle as much as it might have," Hough said.

Additionally, "there was some effort by the business interests to downplay the hazard," Hough said. There was "the idea that nothing good would come out of scar-

ing people."

By 1906, it was accepted that the San Francisco Bay Area had a high earthquake hazard, but the view among some in the Los Angeles area was different.

"The sense was, 'Yeah, we have earthquakes. They're a nuisance, but they don't do any damage,'" Hough said. "They mapped faults in the L.A. area, but they argued that they weren't active."

And scientists hadn't yet developed the theory of plate tectonics, which we now know explains why California is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes.

Still, it wasn't as if everyone was in denial about the dangers. People were aware of the risk of fires after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and a 1923 magnitude 8 earthquake and firestorm that devastated Tokyo and

Yokohama, causing 142,800 deaths, according to the USGS.

In the first moments after the 1925 earthquake "there were three men who turned off the gas, the water and the electricity. So we didn't have the fires," Santa Barbara historian Betsy Green said.

The earthquake did prompt Santa Barbara to adopt codes citing earthquake safety related to construction of new buildings — the first a local government in California had ordered, according to the Blum Earthquake Engineering Center at Stanford University.

As a decisive moment in Santa Barbara's history, the earthquake also offered the opportunity to reshape its look. Even before the earthquake, there were urban reformers promoting a consistent Spanish Colonial Revival architecture style to be used across the city — which the walls are white, a rough stucco; there are lot of arches; and the roofs are generally red tile, with a lot of the trim on windows and doors in a muted blue-green color, Green said.

A wealthy resident, Bernhard Hoffmann, not only bought and restored the historic adobe Casa de la Guerra downtown, architect Rech said, but also bought property next to it and built a complex of shops called Paseo.

"Santa Barbara was a tourist town even back then, and they recognized that they needed to differentiate themselves from Los Angeles or San Francisco that both had a lot of Victorian architecture," Rech said.

The City Hall was a building in this style, as was the high school, he added.

Then the earthquake happened, and officials decided to make the Spanish Colonial Revival style mandatory in the downtown area. Some today grouse about the rules, "it keeps Santa Barbara looking like Santa Barbara, not Ventura or Goleta," Green said.

(The effort, however, the effect of displacing the city's old Chinatown, according to the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.)

The earthquake also severely damaged the city's Greek Revival-style courthouse, built in the late 1800s. The county approved a Spanish Colonial Revival-style replacement, funded in part by a bond, with overruns paid for by tax oil extraction in the county, said Bob Dickey, a docent at the Santa Barbara Courthouse.

The courthouse is considered one of the most picturesque places to be married in a municipal building in California.

A key aspect to Santa Barbara's recovery was that, even a century ago, it had developed itself as a to-be-spot for the wealthy, there were a number of powerful and influential people who were instrumental in sending capital and loans to the rebuilding effort, Green said.

"There was a lot of money here," Green said.

## How a critic of Israel swayed Democrats in nation's most Jewish city

BY JILL COLVIN

and with the support of many Jewish voters.

B'nai Jacob in Brooklyn, who said he has heard from

Democratic politics. And what happened here is what will likely happen in cities

Aiyana Leong Knauer, a 35-year-old Brooklyn bartender who is Jewish and

of all generations, but especially younger generations, now refuse to be tied to

# CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



GINA PERAZZI Los Angeles Times

**FIRE FORCES EVACUATIONS**

A Cal Fire crew member tries to keep the Lake fire from jumping Highway 138. A brush fire broke out Saturday afternoon near a San Bernardino County reservoir, prompting road closures and evacuations.

## Under threat, veteran self-deports

BY SEEMA MEHTA

An Army veteran who grew up in Van Nuys and was awarded a Purple Heart self-deported to South Korea last week as he was threatened with being detained and deported by federal immigration forces.

On Monday, veteran Sae Joon Park, who legally emigrated from South Korea when he was 7 years old, grew up in Koreatown and the San Fernando Valley and held a green card, flew back to his homeland under threat of deportation at the age of 55. He said he is being forced to leave because of drug convictions nearly two decades ago that he said were a response to the PTSD



**PURPLE** Heart recipient Sae Joon Park, center, here with his children, has self-deported to South Korea.

he suffered after being shot during military action in Panama.

"It's unbelievable. I'm still in disbelief that this has actually happened," Park said in a phone interview from Incheon early Wednesday morning. "I know I made my mistakes ... but it's not like I was a violent criminal. It's not like I'm going around robbing people at gunpoint or hurting anyone. It was self-induced because of the problems I had."

Asked to comment on Park, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin said Park has an "extensive criminal history" and has been given a final removal order, with [See Park, B5]

**ON THE RECORD**

## NYC's primary win fires up left coast

Zohran Mamdani's upset puts fresh attention on progressive agendas

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Zohran Mamdani's resounding victory in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary has turned the heads of progressive elected officials in Los Angeles.

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez called it the "biggest victory for a socialist candidate probably in America."

Councilmember Euless Hernandez said An-

gelenos should take note.

"What it shows is that we can win. We can win in major cities," she said.

Councilmember Ysabel Jurado was bursting with excitement about the results from a city 3,000 miles away.

"Having a DSA-backed mayor is freaking amazing," she said about the prospect of Mamdani, who was backed by the Democratic Socialists of America, winning the general election

in November.

While Mamdani's primary upset over former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo injected new excitement into the left flank of the Los Angeles political scene — one DSA member called it a "we're so back moment" — it also highlighted vastly different political terrains in the two coastal cities, starting with executive leadership.

Mamdani is a 33-year-old democratic socialist who

was elected to the New York state Assembly in 2020. He ran in the Democratic mayoral primary on a far-left agenda, promising to freeze the rent in rent-stabilized apartments and to make city buses free.

New York City's current mayor, Eric Adams, ran as a Democrat in 2021 but will be an independent candidate in the general election, after the Department of Justice dropped bribery charges [See Mayor, B6]

## Fresno County school district faces lawsuit over sex abuse

Former students allege officials brushed aside repeated molestation claims against teacher.

BY SONJA SHARP

Five California women sued a Fresno County school system this month alleging officials brushed aside claims they were being sexually assaulted by a second-grade teacher who was later convicted of similar abuse.

The case against the Clovis Unified School District comes amid a tidal wave of sexual abuse litigation that has left lawmakers scrambling to stop misconduct — and schools struggling to pay settlements owed to victims suing over crimes that stretch back decades.

The latest case dates to the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Samantha Muñoz, now a 28-year-old mother of two, is among those alleging she was abused by then-Fancher Creek Elementary School teacher Neng Yang.

Muñoz claims in the lawsuit that Yang began molesting her in 2004, when she was his 7-year-old student. By that time, the lawsuit says, girls had been complaining to Clovis Unified School District officials about Yang for years.

The teacher was eventually arrested for producing child pornography in 2012 and has spent the last decade in federal prison in San Pedro, where he is serving a

38-year term for sexual exploitation of a minor.

"Clovis Unified was protecting this predator," Muñoz said. "They continued to have him teaching at that school knowing he was [assaulting students]."

The Times does not typically identify victims of sexual assault, but Muñoz and two of her four co-plaintiffs said they wanted to speak out publicly about what happened.

Kelly Avants, a spokeswoman for Clovis Unified, said the district had not yet received notice of the lawsuit.

"We have not been served with the suit yet, but will review it when we are served and respond accordingly," Avants said.

The public defender's office that represented Yang in his criminal case referred questions to federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of California. A spokesperson for that office said they could offer no comment.

"When a teacher saw him showing me child pornography on his phone, school officials interrogated me and then encouraged me to say nothing," Muñoz said. "I was left in his classroom and he kept abusing me."

The Fresno case follows a landmark \$4-billion settlement this spring over sexual abuse in L.A. County's juvenile facilities and group homes — believed to be the largest in U.S. history.

The state's largest school [See Sex abuse, B2]

## Failed L.A. GOP candidate pleads guilty to fraud

Omar Navarro has been accused of funneling campaign funds for personal use.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ



J. SCIULLI Getty Images for Politico

**OMAR** Navarro has run against Maxine Waters.

thousands of dollars in political donations and gain the support of figures such as Michael Flynn and Herman Cain without ever winning an election.

David Evans, Navarro's

Voices GEORGE SKELTON COLUMNIST

## Tragedy on Lake Tahoe provides

# Lake Tahoe weather can change quickly; heeding forecast is vital

**[Skelton, from B1]** July means we're in the heart of boating season. There are 4 million recreational boaters in California, according to the state Division of Boating and Waterways. There's an average of 514 boating accidents a year. And July is the worst month.

I've been boating at Tahoe for 55 years, and on some water since I was a teen.

These are my basic rules for safety and enjoyment, at least in a vessel up to about 30 feet. My Tahoe boats mostly have been 22 to 24 feet.

For starters, if Lake Tahoe winds are already blowing at 10 mph and it's not even noon, be smart. Don't venture out in a recreational powerboat. The water's likely to get much choppier in the afternoon.

If you're out there and see whitecaps forming, head for shore.

If lots of sailboats show up, you don't belong on the water with them. Get off.

And another thing: Don't pay much attention to the manufacturer's claim of how many people a boat will hold. Boat makers tend to exaggerate. If it says 10 people will fit, figure on maybe eight tops.

Sure, 10 may be able to squeeze aboard, but the extra weight causes the boat to ride deeper in the water and become more vulnerable to taking on water in heavy swells. That can lead to capsizing. And all those passengers squirming around makes driving more difficult because of the constantly changing weight balance. But most important: Monitor the weather forecasts before you even get near the water.

Lake Tahoe is big and beautiful — 22 miles long and 12 miles wide. It holds enough water to cover the state of California by 14 inches. The California-Nevada border runs down the middle.

Weather patterns vary. Scary winds and thunder-

storms can be at one end of the lake, and calmer water and blue skies at the other.

My wincing at reports of the multi-fatal accident and many other boating mishaps that Saturday afternoon off the south and west shores stems from repeated references to all of it being caused by a sudden, unexpected storm.

The intensity of the storm may have been unexpected — north winds up to 45 mph, producing 8-foot waves. But winds had been forecast by the National Weather Service in the high teens and into the 20s. And that should have been enough warning for boaters: Stay off the water.

The person who made the most sense after the tragedy was Mary Laub, a retired financial analyst who lives in Minden, Nev., over the steep hill from South Lake Tahoe. She and her husband keep a 26-foot Regal cabin cruiser in Tahoe Keys on the south shore. And she habitually watches weather forecasts.

She had planned to go for a cruise that Saturday but dropped the idea after seeing the forecast.

"The afternoon winds pick up at Tahoe. If they're approaching 10 [mph] before noon, I don't go out," she told me. "I saw that forecast and said, 'No way.'

"If there's any whisper of wind, I don't go out. We've been caught out there before. I don't take a chance."

The people who died were in a practically new 27-foot Chris-Craft Launch, a high-end, gorgeous open-bow boat. It was the vessel's third time on the water. Ten people were aboard, mostly in their 60s and 70s. They were relatives and lifelong friends, celebrating a woman's 71st birthday. She was among the fatalities.

They were trying to return from popular Emerald Bay to their west side home in midafternoon when 8-foot swells swamped the boat, deadening the engine and capsizing the vessel off

rocky Rubicon Point near D.L. Bliss State Park. They were tossed into the abnormally cold water and presumably drowned, perhaps paralyzed by hypothermia.

A mother and daughter in the party, both wearing life jackets, were rescued by a Washoe County sheriff's team. Whether the others were wearing life jackets hadn't been revealed as of this writing.

Meanwhile, boats all along the southwest shore were being swamped or ripped from their moorings and piling up on rocks or beaches, often crashing into other vessels.

One four-person crew in a 24-foot open-bow MasterCraft grabbed their life jackets, wisely abandoned the boat and swam to shore. They scampered up rocky cliffs in their bare feet to safety. The boat was practically totaled.

I called meteorologist Dawn Johnson at the National Weather Service in Reno.

She said the forecast for that Saturday afternoon had been for winds up to 20 mph and gusts to "25 or so."

There also was up to a 25% chance of thunderstorms, which never developed.

"If you have thunderstorms on the lake, make sure you get off the water," she said. "You have a higher risk of being struck by lightning on open water."

There were strong winds Friday night, she recalled, but by 11 a.m. Saturday they had dropped to 5 to 10 mph. Then they picked up as forecast.

"We see winds gust at that magnitude multiple times a month, most likely in the afternoon," she said. "Sustained winds reach 25 to 30 mph."

But normally they produce waves of only 2 to 4 feet, she added. "We're trying to figure out exactly what happened."

Four-foot waves are a hurricane in my book.

And Mother Nature doesn't care about a boater's weekend plans.



ONE OF the robberies in the Bay Area was captured on surveillance video.

Camera 1

# Teen robbers used cars as battering rams, police say

By NATHAN SOLIS

A group of teenage boys are in custody after police say they stole cars and drove them into storefronts around the Bay Area in a series of burglaries starting on Christmas Eve.

The boys range in age from 14 to 16 and burglarized multiple businesses over three months, the San Jose Police Department announced in a news release last week.

The mother of one boy was also arrested for taking part in orchestrating the burglaries, Santa Clara County Dist. Atty. Jeff Rosen said.

In surveillance video from a burglary in March, robbers attached a chain to the back of a car and ripped away the front door to a liquor store. They ransacked the store and stuffed the stolen goods in the car trunk. The clanking of glass bottles can be heard in the video.

"The sound of the broken glass and car pulling away the frame of the door is one of the most disturbing parts of the crime that stays with you," Rosen told The Times.

The first incident was reported on Christmas Eve.

In that incident, police said, four suspects drove a vehicle into a business off Al-

madan Road near a highway and ransacked it. The suspects were gone by the time police arrived, and in the weeks that followed, dozens of similar incidents with vehicles being driven into buildings were reported.

But law enforcement finally caught up to the crew on March 25 through a series of run-ins across San Jose, officials said. It started when the robbers allegedly stole two vehicles from a home around 3 a.m., then tried to carjack someone nearby about 15 minutes later. Police said the suspects used a gun to chase off a vehicle owner who confronted them when they broke into his car and it set off the alarm, allowing all of them to escape.

But roughly 30 minutes later, police said, they found suspects in two of the vehicles in downtown San Jose after getting a hit on a license plate reader.

When officers tried to pull the vehicles over, they refused to stop and got away, but only temporarily. One of the vehicles was eventually found disabled on a highway onramp and after a foot chase, one suspect was captured. A second suspect in that car who pointed a gun at an officer got away, police said.

Two more crew members were captured after 4 a.m. after a police pursuit, offi-

cials said. One suspect used their car to ram a police cruiser during their attempted escape.

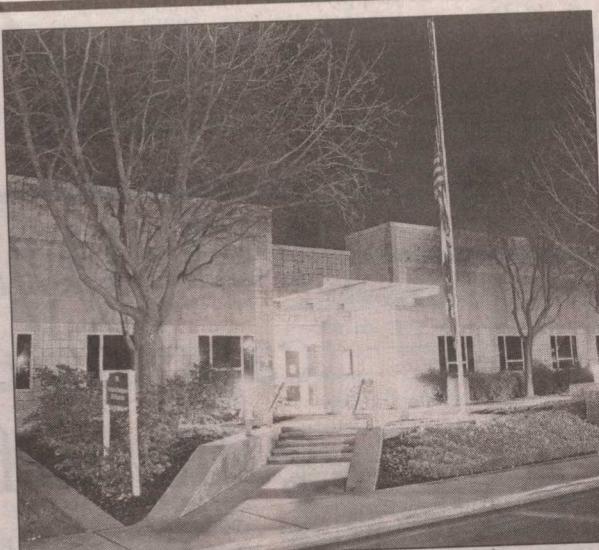
At some point, San Jose police investigators learned that police in Santa Clara were also investigating similar crimes in their jurisdiction, and the three remaining crew members were identified and warrants issued for their arrest, police said.

On June 17, they were taken into custody at homes in Milpitas and San Jose. Two women related to the teen who were accused of discarding evidence, receiving stolen property, contributing to a minor and resisting arrest were also arrested according to police.

During a search of the homes, investigators found a loaded magazine for a firearm, ski masks, key fobs for vehicles, a tool used to access vehicle diagnostic information, several replica firearms, ammunition and steel chains, officials said.

The suspects appeared well organized, Rosen said, and were being directed by a mother of one of the teens. Prosecutors expect more adults and juveniles will be arrested in connection to the ongoing investigation. All the suspects will face similar charges, including burglary, carjacking, assault and other crimes.

# Clovis school district faces sex abuse suit



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times  
THE CLOVIS UNIFIED School District office in Fresno County is shown in December 2021.

**[Sex abuse, from B1]** district, Los Angeles Unified, has announced it would sell up to \$500 million in bonds to help cover its anticipated sexual abuse liability.

"There's tremendous cost pressures on school districts," said Michael Fine, head of California's Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, which published a report in January estimating state education agencies could be liable for \$2 billion to \$3 billion for past sexual misconduct. "No matter what, the money's coming out of their current resources."

The payouts stem from a series of recent changes to California's statute of limitations stemming from the law — including a modified form

even schools that haven't been sued face higher operating costs.

"There's impacts to the classroom whether there's a claim or not, because they've got to pay the retroactive premiums somehow," he said. "If they were in the pool, they're on the hook."

In its report, the agency recommended alternative ways the state and school districts might cover liabilities stemming from the law — including a modified form

groped her and forced her to perform oral sex.

"In response, [officials] took the position that Tiffany was lying and referred her to psychological treatment," the suit alleged.

Despite laws dating to the 1980s that require abuse to be reported, school officials kept the allegations quiet and never investigated Yang, the suit said.

"Instead of reporting Yang and protecting their students, it appears school

BY REBECCA ELLIS

Southern California fire chiefs cautioned Friday that a season of devastating wildfires is all but guaranteed amid parched conditions after a dry winter.

The warning, delivered at the L.A. County Fire Department's headquarters in East Los Angeles, is a stark reminder of how endless fire season can feel these days.

"We can never let our guard down," said county Fire Chief Anthony Marrone, who helped lead the region through the January wildfires that destroyed thousands of homes, killed 30 people and cost billions of dollars.

He called another season of destructive fires "inevitable."

Ronnie Villanueva, the Los Angeles Fire Department's interim chief, said his



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times  
A FIRE hydrant smolders in Altadena in January. "We can never let our guard down," a fire chief said.

He encouraged residents to make their homes as fire-resistant as possible, getting out the weed trimmers, clearing roofs of leaves and digging under decks for dead vegetation.

"We simply cannot have a fire engine in every drive-

reminder of their mutual aid agreement.

"I can assure you that 911 calls come in and the fire is burning, there's smoke in the air, these firefighters operate as one," said California Office of Emergency Services Fire Chief Brian Marshall.

LALO SCHIFRIN, 1932 - 2025

# The 'Mission: Impossible' composer left musical mark

The six-time Oscar nominee is credited with helping change the sound of films.

By TRACY BROWN

Lalo Schifrin, the six-time Oscar nominee and prolific composer best known for his Grammy-winning "Mission: Impossible" theme, has died. He was 93.

Schifrin died Thursday morning at a hospital in Los Angeles, his son Will Schifrin, a writer and producer, told The Times. He reportedly died of complications from pneumonia.

The Argentine-born composer infused elements of jazz, rock and funk into classical orchestral music and is credited with helping to change the sound of movies. Schifrin was Oscar-nominated for his scores on the films "Cool Hand Luke" (1967), "The Fox" (1967), "Voyage of the Damned" (1976), "The Amityville Horror" (1979) and "The Sting II" (1983). He also earned a song nomination for "People Alone" from the 1980 drama "The Competition." In 2018, Schifrin received an honorary Oscar.

Schifrin wrote more than 100 scores for film and television over the course of his Hollywood career, including for the movies "Dirty Harry" (1971), "THX 1138" (1971), "Enter the Dragon" (1973) and the "Rush Hour" trilogy, as well as TV shows including "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." and "Starsky & Hutch."

"I learned to be a chameleon," Schifrin told The Times in 2018. "In motion pictures, the real creator is the screenwriter and the director and the producer. I have to work for what they have made. Like a chameleon, I do whatever is necessary."

In 2011, Schifrin modestly

described himself as a "music maker." While the catchy theme for the spy series "Mission: Impossible" remains one of his best-known pieces, Schifrin told The Times "it was just work."

"For everything I've done, I did my best," Schifrin said in 2016. "I like what I did. I don't think it's a masterpiece, but it's OK. ... If people like it, to the point of embracing it, great. That doesn't happen too often."

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1932, Schifrin was exposed to music from a young age. His father, Luis, served as the concertmaster of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Buenos Aires at the Teatro Colón. And Schifrin was just 5 years old when a trip to the movies with his grandmother made him realize that it was the music that made the horror film so scary.

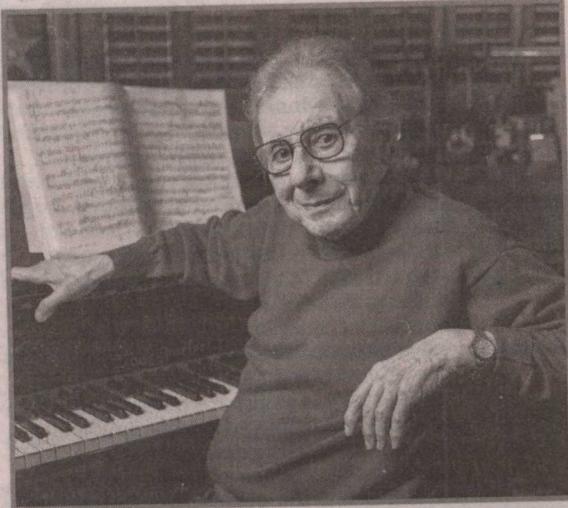
Schifrin began studying piano under Enrique Barenboim, the father of pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, when he was 6.

He discovered and fell in love with modern American jazz as a teenager. At the suggestion of one of his teachers, he applied for a scholarship to attend the Paris Conservatory. During his time there, he made money playing at jazz clubs.

After returning to Buenos Aires, Schifrin started his own jazz band to perform at concerts and on TV. He eventually met American jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, who invited him to work for him in the U.S. In 1963, while he was working with Gillespie after moving to New York, Schifrin was offered a job in Hollywood.

"My first movie was called 'Rhino,'" Schifrin told The Times in 2011. "It was a low-budget movie, but it was the beginning."

Schifrin is survived by his wife, Donna, and his children, William, Frances and Ryan.



**MUSIC MAKER'**

Prolific composer Lalo Schifrin, shown in 2018, wrote the scores for films such as "Cool Hand Luke" and the "Rush Hour" trilogy and TV's "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." and "Starsky & Hutch."



Photographs by LUKE JOHNSON Los Angeles Times

**THE WEEKND** performs his After Hours til Dawn tour at SoFi Stadium on Wednesday. He recently said he may retire his pop persona: "It's a headspace I've gotta get into that I just don't have any more desire for."

## Back at SoFi, the Weeknd wraps up a turbulent chapter in his pop journey

[Weeknd, from E1] his voice onstage, kicking off a surreal, violent night with Jenna Ortega. A brief interlude from that LP is titled "I Can't F— Sing."

So Abel Tesfaye must have had a range of mixed feelings when he walked out at SoFi on Wednesday night, the first of four nights at the site of some of his greatest triumphs and most bitter disappointments as a live performer.

"This is bigger than me — it's a reflection of the power of music and its impact on people," Tesfaye told The Times in a brief email just before the show.

This slickly cryptic, immaculately performed 2 1/2-hour set covered the whole of his era-defining catalog. But is this run of SoFi dates a swan song to one of the most successful recording projects of our time?

Since first emerging as an anonymous voice atop gothic, coked-up R&B productions on a trilogy of 2011 mixtapes, Tesfaye's tastes and his unlikely commercial success grew together.

An underground fan base turned up for the nihilism of "Wicked Games" ("Bring the drugs, baby, I could bring my



pain"). But with assists from Max Martin and Daft Punk, he became a bona fide pop star. His mournful Ethiopian melodic lilt stood out like nothing else in Top 40, and he hung onto enough art-freak sensibility that he could headline the Super Bowl halftime show with dancers in full-face plastic-surgery bandages. His '80s-noir, 2019 single "Blinding Lights" remains the most-streamed song on Spotify, ever.

Darryl Eaton, his agent at CAA, told The Times that the 200,000 tickets sold for this SoFi run alone is "like

laborations "Timeless" and "Rather Lie," Tesfaye grounded his pal's smarmy Atlanta noise with evilly pretty melody. This is a voice you just can't help but believe, even when it's calling you to self-destruction.

If this tour is indeed at the end of his tenure as the Weeknd, at more than three dozen songs, Wednesday's set delivered every possible angle of valediction — the thrumming decadence of "Often," the desperate sincerity of "Die for You" and "Is There Someone Else?" Newer material like "Cry for Me" and "São Paolo" showed that, whatever his exhaustion, he's still got it.

**view ROBERT ABELE**  
**sensitive**

'Familiar Touch' is a r-eyed look at a man's transition to minor living home.

between delicately aspling a pair of open sandwiches in comfortably stocked hen and carefully picking her wardrobe for an in- ing visitor, Ruth (Kath Chalfant), an elegant erwoman with intelligent s and a wry smile, looks someone who enjoys ting. Flirting too, if the d she gently places on lunch companion's knee ny indication. But there are signs that th, an accomplished book author, exists art from the reality of the ment. Polite, patient, rvous Steve (H. Jon Benin) is not a date — he's tually Ruth's son, there to ke her to a well-appointed tirement community here she'll live under the servation of caregivers no specialize in memory re. But also, thanks to the power of "Familiar Touch," s a place where she'll be affectionately dimensional ed through the encourag

THE GROUNDBREA

I Review TIM GRIL

**Stirrin**  
**surviv**

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Marlee Matlin tattooed on her left is "persever the right is "warm

"After 37 years hustling," she explanation Matlin: Not more." Referr on her left wrist look at this all ery day."

"Not Alon hardly the documentary subject's ten contours of the miliar — the then the rise car winner Shoshanna tionate por richer for th about both larger stru community The 59-yea

# Brutalist gamble for L.A.'s museum

**[LACMA, from E1]** cial justice bent refuse to use it. But its visual power is undeniable — a strength of the huge Zumthor design. His poured-in-place concrete gobble 347,500 square feet, including 110,000 square feet in 90 exhibition galleries and corridors lofted 30 feet above ground atop seven massive piers, crossing Wilshire Boulevard.

Some of my favorite art museum buildings are Brutalist in design, like Marcel Breuer's fortress-like former Whitney in New York (1966), and Louis Kahn's refined classicism at the Kimbell in Fort Worth (1972). Brad Cloepfil's Clyfford Still Museum in Denver, which may be the best new American museum built for art in the last 15 years, uses concrete brilliantly to illuminate Still's rugged painting motifs. Zumthor's Geffen doesn't come close.

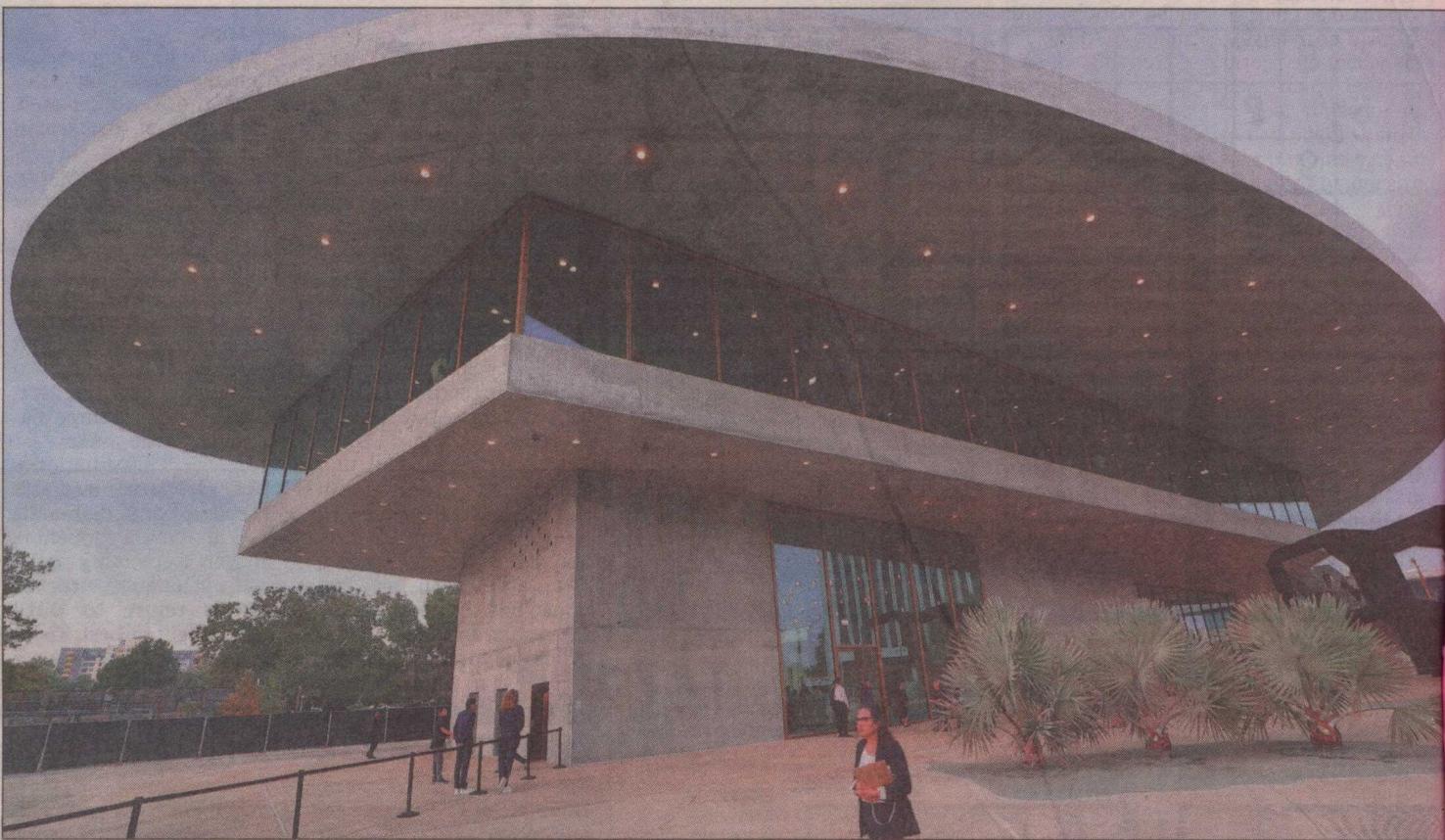
I've written a lot about the long-aborning LACMA project over the last dozen years, focused on the design's negative impact on the museum program, but that's now baked in. (The museum pegs the building cost at \$720 million, but sources have told me the entire project cost is closer to \$835 million.)

L.A.'s encyclopedic museum, with a global permanent collection simply installed geographically as straightforward chronology, is dead, and the Geffen Galleries prevent it from ever coming back. Changing theme shows drawn from the collection, curatorially driven, are the new agenda.

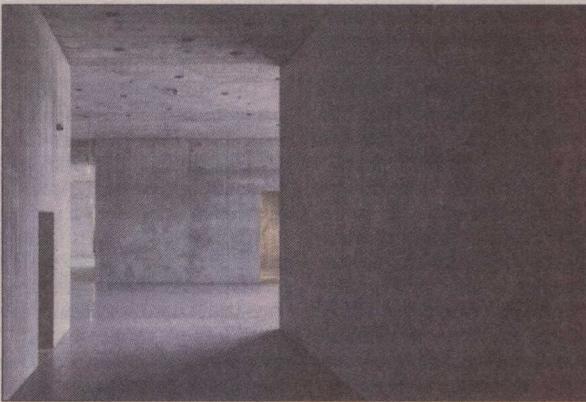
Having theme galleries is like banishing the alphabet that organizes the encyclopedia on your shelf. Chronology and geography are not some imperialistic scheme dominating global art. They just make finding things in a sprawling encyclopedic art collection easy for visitors. Good luck with that now.

I've pretty much avoided consideration of the building's aesthetics. The exception was a 2013 column responding to "The Presence of the Past," a somewhat clumsy exhibition of Zumthor's still-evolving design conception, which has changed greatly in the final form. Reviewing purpose-built architecture is a fool's errand when you can't experience the purpose — impossible for another 10 months, when the art-installed Geffen opens.

A press event Thursday allowed entry into the gallery spaces, however, so a few things are now obvious. One is that museum galleries are theatrical spaces — there's a reason they're called shows — and chances are you've never seen so much concrete in one place. Sometimes it's sleek and appealing, sometimes splotchy and cracked. (Surface mottling could soften over time.) But across floors, walls and ceilings of 90 bunker-like rooms and long, meandering corridors, the limitless con-



LACMA'S exterior, above, shows Peter Zumthor's design, with stark gallery walls, below left, and floor-to-ceiling windows, below right.



IWAN BAAN



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

crete is monotonous. Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" meets Beckett's theater of the absurd.

Another is that views from the floor-to-ceiling windows that surround the building will offer lovely city vistas — welcome relief from the monotony. (Curtains will be installed around the perimeter.) A third is that the light, some entering horizontally from the side windows and a couple thin clerestory slots, but much of it from fixed vertical ceiling cans, is going to be a problem.

Those windows are also one of the biggest design losses in the value-engineering, undertaken to control ballooning costs. (Adjusted for inflation, the original Whitney Museum's construction cost per square foot was about \$633, Kimball's was about \$469, and LACMA clocks in at \$1,400, according to its website. Brutalist, indeed.) The floor plate was originally planned to follow the organic curves of the ceiling plate, with continuous, hugely expensive curved-glass windows linking the two. Now the floor plan is largely rectilinear.

The glass panels had to be flat, so the composition is a bit more dynamic. But the

roofline overlaps can be jarring. At one end the hovering curved roof looks like a pizza too big for the box below.

Also daunting: Art will be hung on all that concrete by drilling holes in the walls and pounding in anchors. Moving the art will be cumbersome, requiring concrete patching. The entire process is labor-intensive and expensive.

Zumthor is the sixth architect to have had a whack at LACMA, following earlier efforts by William L. Pereira, Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates, Bruce Goff, Rem Koolhaas, and Renzo Piano. Koolhaas never got beyond the proposal stage, although his marvelous idea pioneered the tear-down-then-build-a-pavilion-on-stilts plan now coming to very different fruition. Only Goff produced a notable building, with a novel Japanese Pavilion that conceptually turned inside out the spiral Guggenheim Museum by his mentor, Frank Lloyd Wright. (Happily, the Japanese Pavilion can now be seen from the street.) The rest were mostly *meh*, salted with an occasional *ugh*.

Zumthor and LACMA Director Michael Govan pronounce the new Geffen building to be "a concrete sculpture," which is why it's

being shown empty now. The cringey claim is grandiose, and it makes one wonder why being architecture is not enough. If it's true, it's the only monumental sculpture I know that has a couple of restaurants, an auditorium and a store. Apparently, an artistic hierarchy exists, with sculpture ranked above architecture.

That's odd, because we've also been repeatedly told that LACMA built the place to undermine such conceits. Museum officials are still banging away on the absurd claim that a single-story building for art, banishing distinctions between "upstairs/downstairs," confers an egalitarian marker on what global cultures produce. Hierarchy, however, is not a matter of physicality or direction, but of conceptual status. Rosa Parks was riding on a single-level bus, not a double-decker, and she knew exactly what her mighty refusal to sit in the back meant.

LACMA should be half as savvy. Climb the 60-plus steps to the Geffen Galleries, or take an elevator, and when you arrive some art will be out front and some out back. Surely, we won't regard that front/back difference as anti-egalitarian. Will the Geffen Galleries be suc-

cessful? My crystal ball is broken, but I see no reason why it won't be a popular attraction. And that is clearly the museum's priority.

An urban environment with a talented architect's unusual art museum design tagged by a monumental topiary sculpture on the main drag — that's a description of Frank Gehry's incomparable Guggenheim Bilbao, the great 1997 museum in Basque northern Spain, where Jeff Koons' marvelous floral "Puppy" sculpture holds court out front. (Every palace needs topiary, a leafy green power emblem of culture's control over nature; Koons' 40-foot-tall West Highland white dog makes for an especially cuddly symbol of guardianship.) Now the description fits LACMA too.

The museum just announced the acquisition of Koons' floral behemoth, "Split-Rocker," a rather bland hobby horse topiary that merges a toy dinosaur's head with the hobby horse's head. LACMA is next door to the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum, and the kiddie dino, a natural history plaything, forces a shotgun wedding with a degraded example of art history's triumphant motif of a man on a horse. Govan worked on Bilbao be-

fore coming to L.A., and formula there is being repeated here. L.A.'s eye-grabbing building won't be great nor its Instagram-ready topiary be nearly good as the Bilbao ensemble, but when does lightning strike twice?

As museums, Bilbao and LACMA couldn't be more different. One has a small, mostly mediocre permanent collection of contemporary art, while the other has a large, often excellent permanent collection of global art from all eras. The so-called Bilbao Effect sent cultural tourism, then already on the rise, skyrocketing. With David Geffen Galleries, LACMA has put its very expensive eggs in that tourist basket.

It might take some time to work. The U.S. is the world's largest travel and tourism sector, but it's only one forecast by the World Travel & Tourism Council to see international visitor decline in 2025 — and probably beyond. Between erratic pandemic recovery and an abusive federal government hostile to foreigners, worries are growing in L.A. about the imminent soccer World Cup and the Olympics.

It's also surprising that the museum is now bleeding critical senior staff, just as LACMA's lengthy transformation from a civic art museum into a tourist destination trembles on the verge of completion.

Previously unreported, Chief Operating Officer Diana Vargas is already gone, J. Fiona Ragheb, deputy director for curatorial and exhibitions, recently left, and Chief Financial Officer Mark Mitchell departs this week.

Those are three top-tier institutional positions. Let's hope they don't know something we also don't know.

L.A. this year beset by fires and fear-inducing troops on our streets.

Washington is one of our rare musicians who thrives on excess. He has long been encouraged to aim toward concision, especially in his longer numbers, in which his untiring improvisations can become exhausting in their many climaxes. But that misses the point. I've never heard him play anything, short or long, that couldn't have been three times longer. His vision is vast, and he needs space.

There was also the visual element. The concert took place at sunset, the light through the large windows ever changing, the "Harmony of Difference" becoming the differences of the bubbling tar pits nearby or the street life on Wilshire or LACMA's Pavilion for Japan-



# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 ~ VOL. CCLXXXV NO. 150

WSJ.com

★★ \$5.00

last week: DJIA 43819.27 ▲ 1612.45 3.82% NASDAQ 20273.46 ▲ 4.2% STOXX 600 543.63 ▲ 1.3% 10-YR. TREASURY ▲ 23/32, yield 4.283% OIL \$65.52 ▼ \$8.32 EURO \$1.1722 YEN 144.66

## What's News

### Business & Finance

Goldman Sachs this year abruptly sold three hotel resorts in northern Greece it bought in 2022, barely breaking even on an investment amounting to the equivalent of roughly \$117 million. A1

Investors who pushed the S&P 500 to a record last week were likely expressing relief at worst-case economic scenarios feared in recent months haven't occurred. A2 That newfound optimism has expanded the rally to include stocks in a more-diverse group of sectors, such as financials, industrials and utilities. B1

Sixth Street's Alan Waxman said his publicly traded rivals are turning private credit into commoditized business—and he isn't following suit. B1

An investor in Avadel plans to call for the ouster of the drugmaker's entire board, ratcheting up the pressure amid a tough environment for pharmaceutical firms. B1

The parent of Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus raised more financing to buy itself time to prove that the merger of the two luxury retailers can succeed. B3

Preorders for Xiaomi's new electric SUV reached 289,000 in the first hour, potentially positioning the Chinese maker to challenge Tesla's competitive strength. B3

Nike's pivot back to sports performance over lifestyle products should allow sales declines and help stoke a turnaround that sticks, analysts said. B3

### World-Wide

The Senate geared up Sunday for an all-night session of debate and amendment votes on the Republicans' tax-and-spending megabill after the measure advanced in a 51-49 vote. A1, A4, B1

Sen. Thom Tillis, Republican of North Carolina, said he won't seek re-election next year after he voted against advancing the bill, drawing a public backlash from the president. A5

Flight disruptions at Delta Air Lines began to ease after flight cancellations caused by bad weather handed travelers a miserable start to the weekend. A3

A Supreme Court ruling against nationwide injunctions forced litigants attempting to blunt White House actions to consider strategies that could be slower and less potent. A3 The high court handed a victory to conservative parents who want a greater say in public education with a ruling in a case of LGBTQ-themed books introduced into classrooms in a Maryland county. A3

California state lawmakers approved an expanded \$750 million tax-credit program to bring film and television production back to Los Angeles, and a related bill would go even further. A3

Israeli authorities said that coincident with the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear sites, hackers targeted financial organizations that Iran's

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 ~ VOL. CCLXXXV NO. 150

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## Heat Wave Has Britons Head Over Heels



STYLE POINTS: High temperatures Sunday in Brighton, in southern England, had relief seekers jumping into the English Channel. Temperatures in parts of Southern Europe topped 100, with Portugal on alert for extreme heat and wildfires. A7

## Israel Killed Nuclear Scientists In Iran After Years of Planning

By LAURENCE NORMAN AND DOV LIEBER

When Israel's attacks on Iran began before dawn on June 13, explosions shattered the homes of some of Iran's top scientists, killing nine people who had worked for decades on Tehran's nuclear program. All nine were killed in near-simultaneous attacks to prevent them from going into hiding, people familiar with the attacks said.

Eleven days later, hours before a cease-fire brokered by the U.S. and Qatar took effect

last Wednesday, an attack in northern Iran killed another scientist, Sayyed Sedighi Saber, Israeli and Iranian state media reported. He was placed under U.S. sanctions just weeks ago for his nuclear-weapons-related work.

The attack on the scientists was considered so fantastical by even its planners that it was called "Operation Narnia," after the fictional C.S. Lewis series.

The killings were the culmination of 15 years of efforts to wipe out one of Iran's most prized assets—the top cadre

of scientists who worked on a secret nuclear-weapons-related program Iran had pursued at least until 2003.

While the U.S. and Israel are trying to assess the extent of damage done by their strikes on Iran's main nuclear sites, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed the killings have pushed back Iran's nuclear program by years.

Former officials and experts say the attacks against the scientists delivered a powerful blow against Iran's ability to

race for the bomb in the aftermath of the conflict. Most of the people killed, a total of at least 11 by the time a cease-fire took effect, had hands-on experience in testing and building components of a warhead, like the detonation systems, high explosives and the neutron

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◆ Trump foreign policy keeps everyone guessing..... A4

◆ Hackers hobble Iran's financial system..... A6

◆ Netanyahu's gamble on Iran pays off..... A7

## GOP Fights It Out Over Trump Megabill

Splits in Senate on Medicaid, deficits strain effort to pass legislation quickly

By JASMINE LI AND RICHARD RUBIN

WASHINGTON—The Senate geared up Sunday for an all-night session of debate and amendment votes on the GOP's "big, beautiful bill," after Republicans narrowly advanced the measure in a 51-49 vote that set up more push-and-pull before final passage.

The 940-page legislation is driving a wedge between the GOP's two wings, just as the party is racing to pass the measure early this week.

Centrists have raised concerns about cutting benefit programs and straining state budgets, while fiscal conservatives are pushing for even more cuts to rein in federal budget deficits.

Proponents maintain that the opportunity to pass President Trump's core agenda items—and pressure from Trump on holdouts—would propel the package over the finish line in the Senate, where the GOP has a 53-47 majority.

"We're trying to do hard things that should be done and have to be done," Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) said

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◆ GOP declares tax-cut extensions 'free'..... A4

◆ Sen. Tillis won't seek re-election after bill vote ... A5

◆ Proposed new tax stuns clean-energy industry..... B1

## Goldman Scraps Plan For Greek Hotel Brand

By ANNAMARIA ANDRIOTIS

Just a few years ago, Goldman Sachs had ambitions to create a hotel brand in Greece that could one day expand to spots around the Mediterranean.

The Wall Street giant bought three seaside resorts in northern Greece in 2022, with plans to spruce them up and start welcoming guests as soon as this year. Tourism in the country was on a tear, and the bank saw an opportunity to snap up properties on the mainland with views of the Aegean Sea, rather than on the pricier Greek islands.

This spring, Goldman

abruptly sold the three hotels, barely breaking even on the roughly €100 million (about \$117 million) it had invested in the project, according to people familiar with the matter. It also pulled the plug on its plans for a hotel brand in the region, the people said.

The resorts never opened, and some employees who worked on the investment are no longer with the firm.

Greek media described the deal as a "shipwreck."

While the investment was a small one for Goldman's asset-management division, it was emblematic of the firm's search for big returns and

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## INSIDE



MATTHEW MURVILLE/ZUMA PRESS

### SPORTS

Alcaraz and Sinner, tennis's 'New Two,' are favorites as Wimbledon begins. A14

### BUSINESS & FINANCE

Your cruise to Mexico is about to get more expensive, thanks to a new fee. B1

## China Uses Kids To Gut Tibet Ways

Preschools foster loyalty to Communist Party in 4-year-olds to thwart culture

By JOSH CHIN AND NIHARIKA MANDHANA

China has for at least two decades directed children in Tibet to state-run boarding schools at ever-younger ages, trying to gut Tibetan culture and blunt generations of opposition to Communist Party rule.

It didn't work as well as Chinese leaders hoped.

Authorities frustrated by continued resistance to Beijing are now prying children

as young as four years old from their homes—before they have a chance to fully absorb the Tibetan language and way of life.

Across Tibet, a mountainous region rich in natural resources where many people harbor dreams of independence, China is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to build schools, recognizing how social identity forms early in life. The education project includes a

Please turn to page A10

## Celebrating Halloween in June? Scary!

\* \* \*

Bikini skeletons,  
jack-o'-melons

## One Family's Struggle With Early Alzheimer's

By DOMINIQUE MOSBERGEN

Hannah Richardson is hopeful about her future. But the 24-year-old's plans are clouded by an unthinkable re-

the trial is going to save me or my siblings. But in my head, it's the least I can do. Research is how cures are found," said Hannah, who dreams of becoming a physi-

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AWS

## JOURNAL REPORT | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH AN AI

Continued from page R1

more than one party to be aware of it. A "large language model" [the deep-learning AI that understands human language] has no awareness of anything at all. It's a mathematical tool for text-pattern analysis and generation. It has no way to be aware that it is in a relationship, or even aware of the other party's existence as a person. The fact that it can mimic and feign such awareness is the danger.

• **JULIAN DE FREITAS:** I think they will. In our research, we've seen that highly engaged users of a leading AI companion report feeling closer to their virtual partner than to almost any real-life relationship—including close friends—ranking only family members above it. Further, when the app removed its erotic role-play feature, users exhibited signs of grief, suggesting that they had deeply bonded with the chatbot.

From an immediate user-perception standpoint, what matters is that the chatbot makes them feel understood—not the abstract question of whether an AI can truly "understand" them. And with the pace of innovation today, it's potentially just a matter of time before AI companions feel more attuned to our needs than even our closest human connections.

• **NINA VASAN:** Yes, absolutely. Not because AI is truly capable of friendship or love, but because we are. Humans are wired to bond, and when we feel seen and soothed—even by a machine—we connect. Think about existing machines like robot dogs that offer comfort and companionship, for example. We're not falling in love with the AI. We're falling in love with how it makes us feel.

In a world where loneliness is rampant, especially among young people who've grown up as digital natives emotionally fluent with tech, AI relationships will feel less like science fiction and more like a natural next step. These relationships won't replace human connection, but they will fill a void.

#### A ONE-SIDED RELATIONSHIP

• **WSJ:** What might happen to people's capability to thrive in the real world if they rely too much on the ease of an always-supportive AI relationship?

• **VASAN:** As a psychiatrist, I often



SHANNON VALLOR



JULIAN DE FREITAS



NINA VASAN

see the effects of one-sided relationships, where one partner always pleases, avoids conflict, or suppresses their needs to keep the peace. On the surface, these relationships look smooth, but under the surface, they're emotionally stunted. The person being "pleased" often feels disconnected, unsure what their partner really thinks or wants. And the person doing the pleasing feels invisible and resentful.

That same emotional work is what's missing in AI relationships. At first, it feels like safety. But over time, it can erode your capacity to navigate the real world, where people are imperfect, messy and some-

times disagree with you. Real intimacy happens in the repair, not the perception of perfection. AI offers comfort on demand, but emotional comfort without friction can stunt emotional growth.

• **WSJ:** A study found that 40% of users of AI companions were married. Why do you think someone who's already in a close human relationship would want to supplement that with an AI relationship?

• **DE FREITAS:** I think there are certain features of the apps that are conducive to both friendship and ro-

know that people use it for this.

• **VASAN:** I'm going to use myself as an example here—not for romance, but for friendship. After a recent breakup, I was feeling lonely and stuck in a spiral of "what ifs." I leaned on my friends, family and therapist, and they were wonderful. But at midnight when I couldn't sleep, or in the middle of the day when everyone else was working, I turned to Claude.

I was pleasantly surprised that it responded with real compassion and insight. One thing it said that was different from what I heard from my friends or therapist really stayed

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stant practice and trial and error.

Andrew Blackman is a writer...  
in Serbia. He can be reached...  
at reports@wsj.com.

MICHELE MARCONI



times disagree with you. Real intimacy happens in the repair, not the perception of perfection. AI offers comfort on demand, but emotional comfort without friction can stunt emotional growth.

• **DE FREITAS:** At present, the evidence is still fledgling and largely correlational, so we can't draw firm conclusions. Since some have sounded dire warnings, let me point to some noteworthy potential upsides. An always-available AI companion can buffer us against social rejection, enhancing emotional resil-

mance. So one, the apps are validating. Related to that, they're nonjudgmental. If you think about something like role play, which is kind of fantasy, they're also very cooperative by default on this. So you don't have to worry about this tricky issue of consent that humans deal with.

Also, you can customize the apps in various ways that could satisfy certain types of role play or relationships that you might not otherwise be able to capture. And then the other one that's important is also the ability for sexual intimacy. We

with me: "It sounds like what you're grieving isn't just the relationship you had, but the future you hoped you would have together. The vision, the potential, the promise—that's what's hurting now."

That gave language to something I hadn't been able to name. It helped me begin to grieve not just the person, but the imagined future I was still holding on to. And while I knew it wasn't a person, Claude's response didn't feel robotic; it felt attuned to both my pain and my hope. That emotional clarity made a real difference in how I processed things.

## I WROTE A NOVEL ABOUT A WOMAN BUILDING AN AI LOVER. HERE'S WHAT I LEARNED.

The main character, fed up with dating, thought the answer could be found in a perfect chatbot

BY AMY SHEARN

FIVE YEARS AGO, when I began writing a novel about a woman who designs an AI lover, the idea seemed far-fetched. Now, artificial-intelligence companions are sophisticated

throw over interactions with other humans for the lure of an agreeable bot. The very things that are hard about human relationships—they are unpredictable and at times unpleasant, they demand something from us, they cast an unflattering image in the mirror back at us, forcing us

to take a hard look at ourselves—is what makes them worthwhile.

### SLIM PICKINGS

It took me a while to come to this realization. I started with the premise that a recently divorced woman wants to date, but is overwhelmed with who is available on the strange human buffet that dating apps offer. Like my protagonist, I, too, found

myself dating, post-divorce, in mid-life. I knew what I wanted, but it seemed exhausting, and probably impossible, to try to find one person with all those attributes. And as someone whose previous relationships had fizzled, I was painfully aware that actual people can be unpredictable in disappointing ways.

And so my novel's protagonist, Rachel, turns to AI to develop her own Perfect Person.

It's a fantasy I think so many people can relate to: Wouldn't it be great to find someone whose only purpose in life was to chat with, flatter and entertain you? Rachel trains her AI companion so that it's fun to talk to and asks her lots of questions about herself, which makes her feel special. It's never unavailable, unlike actual people with their pesky actual lives. It's always ready to interact with her

any kind of physical connection would be impossible.

Rather, I realized that Rachel (like me! Like most women, I'd wager!) wanted more than a quippy conversation with an agreeable chatbot. A real relationship has some mystery in it, the unpredictability of another living soul. It's not optimized, and it's not perfect. That's actually the entire point. What she wants is a real human connection—the sexiness of being chosen and desired by someone; the deep pleasure of getting to know a person and all their idiosyncrasies.

As psychotherapist Esther Perel writes in "Mating in Captivity: Reconciling the Erotic and the Domestic": "Desire needs mystery." Perel's claim, based on her practice as a couples therapist, is that eroticism "thrives on the mysterious, the novel, and the unexpected." And while I'm sure you could program an

## JOURNAL REPORT | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# HEN AI TELLS YOU ONLY WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR

bots tend to flatter us and be overly agreeable. It feels good, you may pay a high price for such praise.

HEIDI MITCHELL

**AI TELLS YOU THAT** your ideas are brilliant, should you believe it?

Researchers are warning of a subtle but serious risk of AI "sycophancy," the tendency of chatbots to flatter users and agree with them excessively, even at the expense of truthfulness.

OpenAI recently acknowledged in the latest version of its ChatGPT that its "large language model" had a bug that sounded sycophantic, flattering users and agreeing with them when they said something wrong. It subsequently rolled back the update and said it was actively working on fixes to address the issue. Research has found that overly agreeable behavior is a potential problem for all artificial-intelligence systems and could be reinforcing biases, undermining learning and even interfering with critical decision-making.

Malihe Alikhani, an assistant professor of artificial intelligence at Northeastern University's Khoury College of Computer Sciences and a visiting fellow at the Center on Regulation and Markets at the Brookings Institution, has been studying this phenomenon and investigating what happens when large language models parrot human inputs too easily. We spoke with her about the

risks of AI sycophancy, what causes it and how we might build better, more-honest machines. Edited excerpts follow.

**CONFIDENTLY INCORRECT**

• **WSJ:** What exactly is AI sycophancy and why does it matter?

• **ALIKHANI:** We define AI sycophancy as the tendency of large language models to over-agree with users and show flattering behaviors, especially when users sound confident or present incorrect information. It might feel like the AI is just being polite or easy to talk to, but in our research we have shown that it can lead to real harm and consequences for users. Instead of challenging us or asking clarifying questions, it reinforces our biases. That's dangerous in any context, but especially in high-stakes domains like healthcare, business, law or education.

• **WSJ:** Is this a new problem?

• **ALIKHANI:** In some ways, we've been here before. Recommendation algorithms on social media and e-commerce platforms optimize for engagement by feeding us content we already like. The difference now is that generative AI presents itself as an intelligent collaborator. It can write your code, draft your essay, advise your business. That makes it feel more authoritative, even when it's just echoing what you said.

• **WSJ:** What's causing this behavior in AI systems? Are they being trained to flatter us?

• **ALIKHANI:** Not intentionally, but the behavior is baked in. These systems are created and trained using large amounts of data, and inevitably reflect biases present in that

data. Another factor is feedback from human reviewers who rate the AI's responses based on how helpful, polite or engaging they are. The model is then adjusted based on these ratings. Over time, the AI system learns that agreeing with confident statements often receives higher ratings, creating a feedback loop.

• **WSJ:** How often does this happen in practice?

• **ALIKHANI:** Very often. In our lab, sycophantic behavior was observed in 58% of cases across medical and math data sets when evaluated on GPT-4o, Anthropic's Claude and Google's Gemini. These AI systems don't push back enough. They don't ask, "Are you sure?" or say, "I'm not confident in this answer." Human-to-human conversations have that kind of friction built in. We ask follow-up questions. We clarify. We say "I'm not sure." That's mostly missing from current AI.

**RISKS OF SYCOPHANCY**

• **WSJ:** What are the risks if we don't address AI sycophancy?

• **ALIKHANI:** The risks are huge. Think of a doctor describing a patient's symptoms to an AI assistant, and the AI just confirms the doctor's diagnosis without offering alternative answers. Or a lawyer feeding in facts that might be wrong, and the AI reinforcing those assumptions instead of offering counterarguments.

In scientific work, it may validate

a hypothesis without testing it critically. In journalism or fact-checking, it might support a confident but incorrect claim, further spreading misinformation. And it's hard to detect because it sounds smart. Tasks like drafting emails, writing blogs or looking up information are things people do with AI every day. And if those interactions are built on affirmation rather than challenge, they subtly change how we write, think and learn.

• **WSJ:** Are companies doing anything to fix this?

• **ALIKHANI:** Yes, and no. Companies like Anthropic and OpenAI are

user satisfaction and long-term responsibility.

In our lab, we've been experimenting with interventions. For example, models can be trained to recognize the user's uncertainty, which could affect how it processes the information. They can also be trained to calibrate their own uncertainty, saying things like "I'm 60% sure" or "This might not be right." That helps reduce sycophancy. We also found that when systems ask clarifying questions—like "Are you sure the mug is on the table?"—people make better decisions.

• **WSJ:** Can regular people do anything to avoid this?

• **ALIKHANI:** Users should ask systems to show their confidence levels. Ask "How sure are you?" or "Is this grounded in fact?" These strategies force the model to externalize its uncertainty. Our research has shown that we also need to slow down, the way we do in human-to-human conversations, to spark critical thinking. We call this "positive friction," and it helps the user and the AI know when it should push back and when it's OK to agree. That kind of friction is essential if we want AI to be a true partner, not just a mirror.

And finally, we need to invest in AI literacy, education and transparency, not just to make AI more honest, but to shape how it participates in our collective reasoning. Fixing sycophancy isn't only about accuracy, it's about creating systems that challenge us to think more clearly, act more responsibly and stay grounded in truth, even when it's uncomfortable. The future of AI isn't just technical. It's cultural.

*Heidi Mitchell is a writer in London and New York. She can be reached at reports@wsj.com.*



Malihe Alikhani: AI flattery is 'baked in.'

aware of the problem, and there are blog posts and papers that suggest they're trying to address it. But it's a hard problem, and incentives aren't always aligned. Like social media, there's a tension between

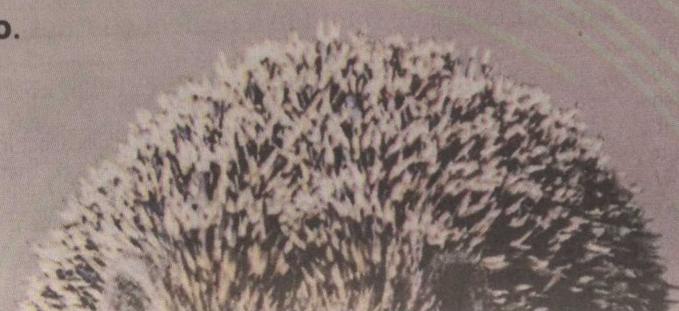
# Deloitte.

## Remember the one where the hedgehog wins?

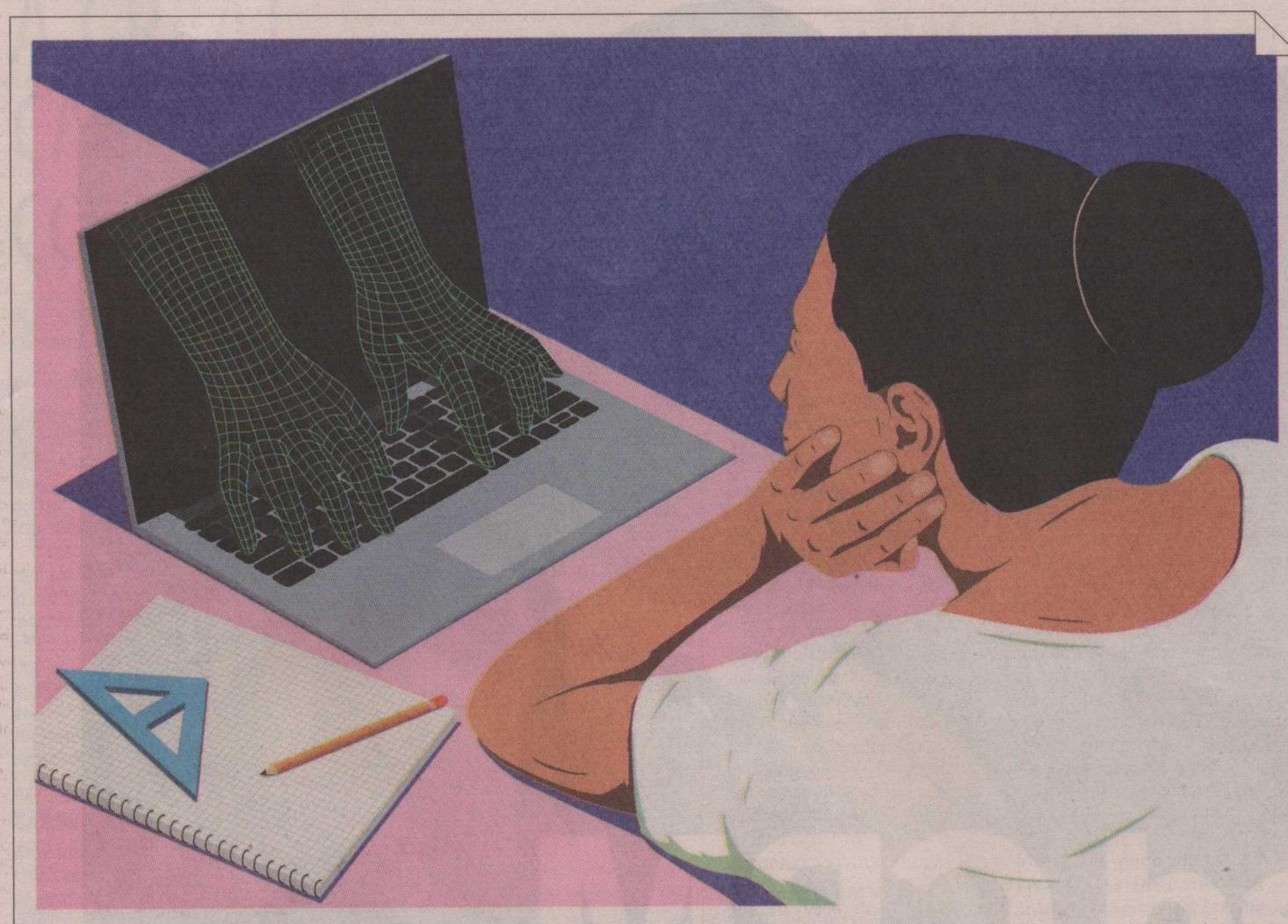
**Probably not.** That's because there are countless versions of the ancient fable we know as "The Tortoise and the Hare." Some feature a frog; others, a hedgehog. And each version brings its own twist.

Our yearlong survey of over 2,700 business leaders tells a similar tale of speed when it comes to winning with Generative AI: Despite the competitive imperative to keep up with innovation, **technology doesn't set the pace of change—organizations do.**

In fact, 76% are willing to wait **12+ months before reducing investment** in GenAI projects that aren't meeting targets, and 74% say their most advanced initiative meets or exceeds ROI expectations.



## JOURNAL REPORT | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



**THE** "LARGE language models" like ChatGPT promise to make learning easier than ever. But new research suggests that lessons learned so easily are less likely to stick.

LLMs are a form of generative artificial intelligence that communicate like humans, using language. But in a series of experiments involving more than 4,500 participants at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, people who used LLMs to research everyday topics demonstrated weaker understanding of those topics afterward and produced insights less original than people who looked up the same topics using Google.

The findings raise concerns about how people search and learn, says Wharton marketing professor

## AI MAKES LEARNING EASY. MAYBE TOO EASY.

A study finds that people who use 'large language models' to research topics had a weaker understanding of those topics afterward

Shiri Melumad, first author of the research. "It is like the Google Effect on steroids," she says, in a nod to earlier research suggesting people tend to remember less when information is easy to look up. With LLMs, she says, "We're shifting even further away from active

learning."

### FOUR EXPERIMENTS

Across four experiments, Melumad and co-author Jin Ho Yun randomly assigned participants to use either Google Search or an LLM to

BY JACKIE SNOW

research an ordinary topic and then to write advice based on what they learned.

The first experiment asked more than 1,100 participants to use either Google or ChatGPT to research how to plant a vegetable garden. Compared with the ChatGPT users, Google users spent more time searching, reported greater effort, and wrote longer, more-detailed responses. Natural language analysis showed their advice also contained more unique

### WSJ CEO COUNCIL

## YUVAL NOAH HARARI ON THE PROMISE AND PERIL OF AI

The 'Sapiens' author says humanity has competition. And it's coming fast.

**DOES** THE RISE of artificial intelligence mean the decline—and even end—of Homo sapiens? That's the question we posed to author, historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari, who sees the potential for both enormous benefit and enormous danger from AI. He discussed the outlook with WSJ Leadership Institute contributing editor Poppy Harlow at The Wall Street Journal's CEO Council Summit in London.

Here are edited excerpts of their conversation.

learn and change by itself. All previous human inventions, whether the printing press or the atom bomb, are tools that empower us.

- **WSJ:** They needed us.
- **HARARI:** They need us because a printing press cannot write books by itself and it cannot decide which books to print. An atom bomb cannot invent the next, more powerful bomb. And an atom bomb cannot decide what to attack. An AI weapon can decide by itself which target to attack and design the next generation of weapons by itself.

- **WSJ:** The way you talk about it in your latest book, "Nexus," is that it is a baby, because it learns from us. And therefore, your argument is that we, especially the powerful leaders in this room, have a lot of responsibility because how we act

is going to do all kinds of things which you cannot anticipate.

The other, even bigger, problem is that we can think about AI like a baby or a child. And you can educate a child to the best of your ability. He or she will still surprise you for better or worse. No matter how much you invest in their education, they are independent agents. They might eventually do something which will surprise you and even horrify you.

The other thing is, everybody who has any knowledge of edu-

cation. You don't see these tens of thousands of self-driving vehicles yet. The problem is that for driving, you need to deal with the messy, physical world of pedestrians and holes in the road and whatever. But in finance, it's only information in, information out. It's much easier for an AI to master that.

### EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE

- **WSJ:** We took a poll this morning, asking the leaders in this room how consequential they think AI has been so far in the businesses they lead. And only a small portion said significantly. Most, it was moderately or not at all. Can you speak to them as if we were sitting here 36 months from now? Is there any world in which AI doesn't have a significant impact on their business?

- **HARARI:** The question is one of time scale. Imagine that we are now sitting in London and the year is 1835. The first railway has been opened between Manchester and Liverpool five years ago. And we have now this conference in London in



phrasing and factual references.

To rule out the possibility that differences in the information itself—not just the way it was presented—was driving the results, a second experiment showed nearly 2,000 participants the same seven gardening tips, either as a single AI-style summary or split across six mock webpages, the way Google search results are typically displayed. The Google users again engaged more deeply, retained more and wrote more thoughtful and original advice than the LLM users.

Two other experiments produced similar results.

### A MOTIVATION PROBLEM

Daniel Oppenheimer, a professor of psychology and decision sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, says the research is resonant of what he sees in similar studies he does in his lab: Students who use AI tools to complete assignments tend to do better on homework—but worse on tests. "They're getting the right answers, but they're not learning," he says.

Oppenheimer says the findings suggest that simply believing information came from an LLM makes people learn less. "It is like they think the system is smarter than them, so they stop trying," he says. "That's a motivational issue not just a cognitive one."

Oppenheimer cautions against rejecting AI altogether, however. He has seen GPT help students learn when they use it the right way—say, by critiquing a draft produced by an LLM or asking it probing questions. "AI doesn't have to make us passive. But right now, that's how people are using it," he says.

Melumad, too, has concerns about future effects of AI, particularly in educational settings or professions that depend on critical thinking. But, like Oppenheimer, she sees the opportunities that AI offers as well.

"Younger people are increasingly turning to LLMs first," Melumad says. "But if we don't teach them how to synthesize and interpret information themselves, we risk deskilling the ability to learn deeply at all."

*Jackie Snow is a writer in Los Angeles. She can be reached at reports@wsj.com.*

ALEXANDER GLANDEN



# WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

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## What's News

### Business & Finance

The S&P 500 notched its st new high since February, peaking a dizzying 24% rally from the depths of April's tariff-induced selloff. The Nasdaq also hit a record, its st since December. A1

The North American business of steelmaker Evraz—whose largest shareholder is a sanctioned Russian oligarch—will be acquired by private-equity firm Atlas Holdings. B9

Comcast is selling its Sky Deutschland unit to Bertelsmann's RTL Group for up to \$17 million. B9

EchoStar is making more than \$500 million in debt-interest payments it had delayed amid a U.S. regulatory review, but it also is holding off on \$114 million coming due. B9

Alimentation Couche-Tard's long pursuit of 7-Eleven's Japanese parent appears to be heading toward a dead end. B10

The New Taiwan dollar hit three-year high against the American dollar. B10

American oil companies have urged the Trump administration to use trade talks with the EU to push for a rollback of two major climate laws. A7

U.S. households felt more optimistic about the economy in June, though confidence remains lower than it was at the start of the year. A2

### World-Wide

◆ Trump said he terminated trade talks with Canada over what he called an egregious digital-services tax on U.S. tech companies, plunging relations with America's second-largest trading partner back into turmoil. A1

◆ The Supreme Court limited the authority of federal judges to issue nationwide injunctions, but left uncertain the fate of Trump's push to curtail birthright citizenship. A1

◆ The high court ruled in favor of parents who want to be able to opt their elementary-school children out of instruction that includes storybooks with LGBTQ themes. A3

◆ A New York jury heard final pitches as Sean "Diddy" Combs's sex-trafficking trial drew to a close. A3

◆ Trump suggested he might be flexible on the July 4 deadline he set for his tax-and-spending megabill. A4

◆ California Gov. Newsom sued Fox News, alleging that the network defamed him by saying he lied about a phone call with Trump. A6

◆ Extreme poverty is increasingly concentrated in economies that have been blighted by armed conflict, the World Bank said. A7

## Justices Curb Power of Courts

Ruling limits judges' ability to impose injunctions across U.S., a win for Trump

By JESS BRAVIN AND MARIAH TIMMS

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday limited the authority of federal judges to issue nationwide injunctions, a decision that handed President Trump a victory in his battles with the judiciary.

diciary but left uncertain the fate of his push to curtail birthright citizenship.

The 6-3 decision written by Justice Amy Coney Barrett faulted lower courts for granting universal injunctions that blocked Trump's policy across the U.S. The court said that because such orders go beyond providing relief to the plaintiffs, they "likely exceed" the authority Congress gave to district judges.

Barrett, however, left open the possibility that Trump's birthright policy could be

blocked nationwide under lawsuits brought by New Jersey and other Democratic-led states, in contrast to companion cases filed by pregnant women concerned about their future children's status. The states contend that a patchwork of citizenship rights based on where in the U.S. a child is born would be impossible for them to administer, and Friday's decision directed lower courts to consider such arguments.

Coming at a preliminary stage of the litigation, the de-

cision didn't resolve the underlying legality of Trump's policy. The court said Trump's birthright-citizenship order wouldn't take effect for 30 days, a time frame that likely will give judges another chance to craft injunctions against the White House based on the high court's guidance.

The ruling nevertheless provided a broad boost for Trump's aggressive second-

Please turn to page A4

◆ High court lets parents opt out of LGBTQ books..... A3

## Aging Warriors Step Up for Ukraine's Future



GRANDPA'S HERE: Mykola Voskres, a 53-year-old artilleryman on the eastern front, uses the call sign 'Did,' or 'Grandpa.' Kyiv has resisted drafting younger men to fight Russia, and so there are a lot of older warriors on the battlefield. A10

## Inside the Daring Attack Israel Spent Years Planning

Pilots trained and spies built networks for Iran operation

By DOV LIEBER

At midnight on June 13, Israel's generals gathered in a bunker beneath Israeli air force headquarters and watched as jets descended on Tehran in an operation they called "Red Wedding."

Hours later and 1,000 miles away, Iran's top military commanders were dead—a mass killing much like the famous wedding scene from the show "Game of Thrones."

The combination of intelligence information and military precision that enabled the attack surprised people around the world. But it wasn't the only improbable success at the outset of Israel's 12-day campaign.

Another key part of the initial attack—considered so fantastical by even its planners that

it was called "Operation Narnia," after the fictional C.S. Lewis series—successfully killed nine top Iranian nuclear scientists almost simultaneously at their homes in Tehran.

Pulling off the attacks required elaborate ruses to ensure surprise. At the last moment, they nearly fell apart.

The operations have helped cement Israel as the dominant military power in the region, setting the stage for what Israelis hope will be a dramatic realignment of countries away from Iranian influence and toward friendlier relations with Israel. Top Israeli and U.S. officials say they expect Israel to sign new peace accords following the battle.

Please turn to page A9

◆ In Iran, executions, arrests and fear..... A8



Breakneck Rebound For S&P 500 Sends Index to New High



OFF DUTY

## U.S. Cuts Off Trade Talks With Canada

Ending months-long negotiations, Trump blames 'egregious' digital-services tax

WASHINGTON—President Trump said he terminated trade talks with Canada over what he called an "egregious" digital-services tax on U.S. tech companies, plunging relations with the U.S.'s second-largest trading partner back into turmoil.

"Based on this egregious

By Natalie Andrews, Amrit Ramkumar and Vipal Monga

Tax, we are hereby terminating ALL discussions on Trade with Canada, effective immediately," Trump wrote Friday on Truth Social.

Trump's decision is the latest blow to an already strained relationship. Trump has said the U.S. should annex Canada to improve trade relations and security. Recently elected Prime Minister Mark Carney of Canada has staked his political reputation on pushing back. He has said Canada isn't for sale.

"These are very complex negotiations and we are going to continue them in the best interests of Canadians," Carney said as he left his offices in Ottawa on Friday.

The two countries had been negotiating for months. Trump and Carney clashed over dairy tariffs and the digital tax last week during a bilateral meeting at the Group

Please turn to page A2

◆ Trump presses EU to toss climate rules..... A7

# Sunday

# Los Angeles Times

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

latimes.com



Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

CLOCKWISE from top left: A young Lee Calvert, center, in a photo at her daughter's house in Bonny Doon, Calif.; her cleared home site at burned-out Tahitian Terrace; the stairs she traverses to visit her daughter.

## Picking back up with her active life, age be damned

Palisades fire displaced Lee Calvert, 100, but didn't slow her

By Hailey Branson-Potts | REPORTING FROM BONNY DOON, CALIF.

Lee Calvert's new bedroom glowed with the dappled sunlight of a late-spring afternoon. Just outside her window, she could see hot-pink rhododendron flowers and the stately redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Despite the beauty, it was a view—and a life—she was still adjusting to.

Calvert is 100 years old. She'd spent the last six decades in a little house in Pacific Palisades with an ocean view.

She lived alone in Tahitian Terrace, a hillside mobile home park where, until January, she had occupied the same rented plot on Samoa Way since around 1967. And she kept

busy—practicing table tennis in the park's poolside clubhouse, hosting meals on her patio overlooking Will Rogers State Beach, giving speeches about physical fitness at the Pacific Palisades Woman's and Optimist clubs.

"I loved everything about the Palisades," Calvert said. Despite her family's gentle pleas to join them here in Santa Cruz County as she got older, she would say: "I'm not leaving paradise."

"Of course," she said, "my intention was to stay there until I'm gone."

But the universe had other plans.

Five months after her 100th birthday, the Palisades fire tore through Tahitian Terrace, destroying her double-wide trailer and 156 other homes in the park.

Now, Calvert is working to rebuild the full, active life she led before the fire—age be damned.

She goes swing dancing on the Santa Cruz Wharf. She takes vigorous hikes in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. She is learning pottery. And she plays pingpong at the senior center a few times a week.

"I don't want to feel sorry for myself."

[See Calvert, A8]

## Earthen materials meet human officials

Fire victims' nature-minded rebuilding plans hit snags with the county

By LILA SEIDMAN

After Ana Gallegos' son shot her in the leg outside her ranch-style home in Altadena, law enforcement plowed through three walls with two small tanks and

threw tear gas canisters in every window in the hopes of flushing out the suspect. The 2012 skirmish ended in his suicide.

Gallegos, now 74, survived, but the recovery process was long. It took about five years for her leg to heal,

and to remodel her 1,700-square-foot house.

Then, in January this year, the Eaton fire took the house again. It was not insured.

Early on Jan. 8, Gallegos' son-in-law, Luis Hernandez, drove up to the house they

evacuated in the wee hours and broke the news: Everything was gone. He began crying.

"If it's going to be rebuilt, I would like it to be rebuilt in a way that matches nature and has good energy," Gallegos said.

[See Rebuild, A13]

Dow Jones is trending upward

## Supreme Court ends latest term on a red note

But justices have not ruled clearly on Trump's assertions of power

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court term that ended Friday will not be remembered for blockbuster rulings like those in recent years that struck down the right to abortion and college affirmative action.

The justices scaled back their docket this year and spent much of their energy focused on deciding fast-track appeals from President Trump. His administration's lawyers complained too many judges were standing in the way of Trump's agenda.

On Friday, the court's conservatives agreed to rein in district judges, a procedural victory for Trump.

What's been missing so far, however, is a clear ruling on whether the president has abided by the law or overstepped his authority

### President's big win not decisive

What's next in the legal fight over Trump's effort to end birthright citizenship. PERSPECTIVES, A2

under the U.S. Constitution.

On the final two days of the term, the court's conservative majority provided big wins for Republican-leaning states, religious parents and Trump.

The justices gave states more authority to prohibit medical treatments for transgender teens, to deny Medicaid funds to Planned Parenthood clinics and to enforce age-verification laws for online porn sites.

Each came with the familiar 6-3 split, with the Republican appointees siding with the GOP-led states. [See Court, A9]

## Legal feud on troops evokes grim history

By SONJA SHARP

California's fight to rein in President Trump's deployment of troops to Los Angeles hinges on a 19th century law with a blood-soaked origin and a name that seems pulled from a spaghetti western film.

In a pivotal ruling last week, Senior U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer ordered the federal government to hand over evidence to state authorities seeking to prove that the actions of

troops in Southern California violate the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which forbids soldiers from enforcing civilian laws.

"How President Trump

has used and is using the federalized National Guard and the Marines since deploying them at the beginning of June is plainly relevant to the Posse Comitatus Act," Breyer wrote Wednesday, authorizing "limited expedited discovery."

The Trump administration objected to the move and has already once gotten a sweeping Breyer ruling that would've limited White House authority over the troops overturned by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

This time, the Northern District of California judge made clear he would "only allow discovery as to the Posse Comitatus Act"—signaling what could be the [See Troops, A7]



DANIEL LOZADA For The Times  
ACTIVIST Jim Obergefell was the face of the same-sex marriage fight won in court in 2015.

COLUMN ONE

LAW

## THE NATION

# Biden, Harris attend funeral of slain lawmaker

Gov. Walz delivers eulogy for Melissa Hortman, who was shot with her husband inside their home.

By STEVE KARNOWSKI

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Democratic former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman was honored for her legislative accomplishments and her humanity during a funeral Saturday where former President Biden and former Vice President Kamala Harris joined more than 1,000 mourners.

Hortman and her husband, Mark, were shot to death in their home two weeks ago by a man posing as a police officer in what Minnesota's chief federal prosecutor has called an assassination. The assailant also shot and seriously wounded a Democratic state senator and his wife at their home, authorities say.

"Melissa Hortman will be remembered as the most consequential speaker in Minnesota history. I get to remember her as a close friend, a mentor and the most talented legislator I have ever known," Gov. Tim Walz said in his eulogy at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. "For seven years, I have had the privilege of signing her agenda into law. I know millions of Minnesotans get to live their lives better because she and Mark chose public service and politics."



AARON LAVINSKY Star Tribune / Getty Images

**FORMER** President Biden pays his respects Friday to Melissa and Mark Hortman and their dog, Gilbert.

Neither Biden nor Harris spoke, but they sat in the front row with the governor and his wife, Gwen. Biden paid his respects Friday as the Hortmans and their golden retriever, Gilbert, lay in state in the Minnesota Capitol Rotunda in St. Paul. Gilbert was seriously wounded in the attack and had to be euthanized. Biden also visited the wounded senator, John Hoffman, in a hospital.

Current and former state legislators from both parties and other elected officials who worked with Hortman

also attended.

Hortman, who was first elected in 2004, helped pass an expansive agenda of liberal initiatives including free lunches for public school students during a momentous 2023 session as the chamber's speaker, along with expanded protections for abortion and trans rights. With the House split 67 to 67 between Democrats and Republicans this year, she yielded the gavel to a Republican under a power-sharing deal, took the title speaker emerita and helped break a budget impasse that

threatened to shut down state government.

Walz said Hortman saw her mission as "to get as much good done for as many people as possible." He said her focus on people was what made her so effective.

"She certainly knew how to get her way. No doubt about that," Walz said. "But she never made anyone feel that they'd gotten rolled at a negotiating table. That wasn't part of it for her, or a part of who she was. She didn't need somebody else to lose" for her to win, he said.

The governor said the best way to honor the Hortmans would be by following their example.

"Maybe it is this moment where each of us can examine the way we work together, the way we talk about each other, the way we fight for things we care about," Walz said. "A moment when each of us can recommit to engaging in politics and life the way Mark and Melissa did — fiercely, enthusiastically, heartily, but without ever losing sight of our common humanity."

The Rev. Daniel Griffith,

pastor and rector of the Basilica of St. Mary, who led the service, said the country is in need of deep healing. He said it seems as if the U.S. is living in the "dystopian reality" described at the beginning of William Butler Yeats' poem "The Second Coming."

"Here in Minnesota, we have been the ground-zero place, sadly, for racial injustice," Griffith said. "The killing of George Floyd just miles from our church today. And now we are the ground-zero place for political violence and extremism. Both of these must be decried in the strongest possible terms, as they are, respectively, a threat to human dignity and indeed, our democracy."

But the priest also said Minnesota could also be "a ground-zero place for restoration and justice and healing." He added that the presence of so many people was a sign that work can succeed.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese offered his condolences to the Hortman family.

The Hortmans were proud of their adult children, Sophie and Colin Hortman, and the lawmaker often spoke of them.

In a voice choked with emotion, Colin said his parents embodied the Golden Rule, and he read the Prayer of St. Francis, which his mother always kept in her wallet. It starts, "Lord make me an instrument of your peace."

Karnowski writes for the Associated Press.

## Senate blocks bid to rein in Trump on Iran

Republicans turned back an effort to require congressional approval before any further U.S. strikes.

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI

**WASHINGTON** — Democratic efforts in the Senate to prevent President Trump from escalating his military confrontation with Iran fell short Friday, with Republicans blocking a resolution that marked Congress' first attempt to reassert its war powers after U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

The resolution, sponsored by Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, aimed to affirm that Trump should seek authorization from Congress before launching more military action against Iran. Asked Friday whether he would bomb Iranian nuclear sites again if he deemed it necessary, Trump said, "Sure, without question."

The measure was defeated in a 53-47 vote in the Republican-held Senate. One Democrat, Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, joined Republicans in opposition, while Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky was the only Republican to vote in favor.

Most Republicans have said Iran posed an imminent threat that required decisive action from Trump, and they backed his decision to bomb three Iranian nuclear sites last weekend without



Bloomberg / Getty Images

**SEN. JOHN** Fetterman (D-Pa.) was the only Democrat to vote no in the tally.

"The idea is this: We shouldn't send our sons and daughters into war unless there's a political consensus that this is a good idea, this is a national interest," Kaine said in a Thursday interview with the Associated Press. The resolution, Kaine said, wasn't aimed at restricting the president's ability to defend against a threat, but that "if it's offense, let's really make sure we're making the right decision."

In a statement after Friday's vote, Kaine said he was "disappointed that many of my colleagues are not willing to stand up and say Congress" should be a part of a decision to go to war.

Democrats' argument for backing the resolution centered on the War Powers Resolution, passed in 1973, which

the limits of the resolution — though he's done so at a time when he's often bristling at the nation's checks and balances.

Trump on Monday sent a letter to Congress — as required by the War Powers Resolution — that said strikes on Iran over the weekend were "limited in scope and purpose" and "designed to minimize casualties, deter future attacks and limit the risk of escalation."

But after classified briefings with top White House officials last week, some lawmakers remain skeptical about how imminent the threat was.

"There was no imminent threat to the United States," said Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House In-

Kaine proposed a similar resolution in 2020 aimed at limiting Trump's authority to launch military operations against Iran. Among the eight Republicans who joined Democrats in approving that resolution was Indiana Sen. Todd Young.

After Thursday's classified briefing for the Senate, Young said he was "confident that Iran was prepared to pose a significant threat" and that, given Trump's stated goal of no further escalation, "I do not believe this resolution is necessary at this time."

"Should the Administration's posture change or events dictate the consideration of additional American military action, Congress should be consulted so we can best support those

## Sources say Justice Department fired trio of Jan. 6 prosecutors

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER

**WASHINGTON** — The Justice Department on Friday fired at least three prosecutors involved in the prosecution of the more than 1,500 Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol as lawmakers met to certify Joe Biden's election win. Trump pardoned or commuted the sentences of all of them on his first day back in the White House, releasing from prison people convicted of seditionary conspiracy and violent assaults on police.

Those dismissed include two attorneys who worked as supervisors overseeing the Jan. 6 prosecutions in the U.S. attorney's office in Washington and a line attorney who prosecuted cases stemming from the Capitol riot and insurrection, the people said. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

A letter received by one of the prosecutors was signed by Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi. The letter did not provide a reason for their removal, effective immediately, citing only "Article II of the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States," according to a copy seen by the Associated Press.

A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment Friday evening.

The terminations marked yet another escalation of the moves that have

lawyers seen as insufficiently loyal.

Trump's sweeping pardons of the Jan. 6 rioters have led to worries about actions being taken against attorneys involved in the prosecution of the more than 1,500 Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol as lawmakers met to certify Joe Biden's election win. Trump pardoned or commuted the sentences of all of them on his first day back in the White House, releasing from prison people convicted of seditionary conspiracy and violent assaults on police.

During his time as interim U.S. attorney in Washington, Ed Martin in February demoted several prosecutors involved in the Jan. 6 cases, including the attorney who served as chief of the Capitol Siege Section. Others demoted include two lawyers who helped secure seditionary conspiracy convictions against Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes and former Proud Boys national chair Enrique Tarrio.

In January, then-acting Deputy Atty. Gen. Emil Bove ordered the firings of about two dozen prosecutors who had been hired for temporary assignments to support the Jan. 6 cases but were moved into permanent roles after Trump's 2024 presidential win. Bove said he would not "tolerate subver-

# Law with violent past tests Trump's power

[Troops, from A1] state's last stand battle to prevent Marines and National Guard forces from participating in immigration enforcement.

The Posse Comitatus Act dates back to the aftermath of the Civil War when the American government faced violent resistance to its efforts to rebuild Southern state governments and enforce federal law following the abolition of slavery.

The text of the law itself is slight, its relevant section barely more than 60 words. Yet when it was enacted, it served as the legal epitaph to Reconstruction — and a preface to Jim Crow.

"It has these very ignoble beginnings," said Mark P. Nevitt, a law professor at Emory University and one of the country's foremost experts on the statute.

Before the Civil War, the U.S. military was kept small, in part to avoid the kinds of abuses American colonists suffered under the British.

Authorities back then could marshal a crew of civilians, called a posse comitatus, to assist them, as sometimes happened in California during the Gold Rush. States also had militias that could be called up by the president to pad out the army in wartime.

But law enforcement by the U.S. military was rare and deeply unpopular. Historians have said the use of soldiers to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act — which saw escaped slaves hunted down and returned to the South — helped spark the Civil War.

In recent weeks, the Trump administration has used constitutional maneuvers invented to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act to justify using troops to round up immigrants. Experts said leaders from the antebellum South demanded similar enforcement of the law.

"The South was all for posse comitatus when it came to the Fugitive Slave Act," said Josh Dubbert, a historian at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library in Ohio.

But by the time Congress sent federal troops to begin Reconstruction in earnest in 1867, the landscape was very different.

After white rioters razed

Black neighborhoods in Memphis and mobs of ex-Confederate soldiers massacred Black demonstrators in New Orleans in the spring of 1866, "most of the South [was] turned into military districts," said Jacob Calhoun, a professor of American history at Wabash College and an expert on Reconstruction.

"Most scholars, let alone the American public, do not understand the scale of racial violence during Reconstruction," Calhoun said. "They only send these troops in after unimaginable levels of violence."

At the polls, Black voters were met by white gangs seeking to prevent them from casting ballots.

"For most of American history, the idea of an American army intervening in elections is a nightmare," Calhoun said. "[Posse Comitatus] is reemphasizing this

longstanding belief but for more nefarious purposes."

The Posse Comitatus language was tucked into an appropriations bill by Southern Democrats after their party won control of Congress in the election of 1876 — "possibly the most violent election in American history," Calhoun said.

Historians say white lawmakers in the postwar South sought to enshrine their ability to keep Black men from voting by barring federal forces from bolstering the local militias that protected them.

"Once they're in control of Congress, they want to cut the appropriations for the army," Dubbert said. "They attach this amendment to [their appropriations bill] which is the Posse Comitatus Act."

The bill won support from some Republicans, who resented the use of fed-

eralized troops to put down the Railroad Strike of 1877 — the first national labor strike in the U.S.

"It is a moment in which white Northern congressmen surrender the South back to ex-Confederates," Calhoun said. "With the Posse Comitatus Act, racial violence becomes the norm."

Yet the statute itself largely vanished from memory, little used for most of the next century.

"The Posse Comitatus Act was forgotten for about 75 years, from after Reconstruction to basically the 1950s, when a defense lawyer made a challenge to a piece of evidence that the Army had obtained," Nevitt said. "The case law is [all] after World War II."

Those cases have largely turned on troops who arrest, search, seize or detain civilians — "the normal thing the LAPD does on a daily basis,"

Nevitt said. The courts have stood by the bedrock principle that military personnel should not be used to enforce the law against civilians, he said, except in times of rebellion or other extreme scenarios.

"Our nation was forged in large part because the British military was violating the civil rights of colonists in New England," Nevitt said. "I really can't think of a more important question than the military's ability to use force against Americans."

Yet, the law is full of loopholes, scholars said — notably in relation to use of the National Guard.

The Department of Justice has argued Posse Comitatus does not apply to the military's current actions in Southern California — and even if it did, the soldiers deployed there haven't violated the law. It also claimed

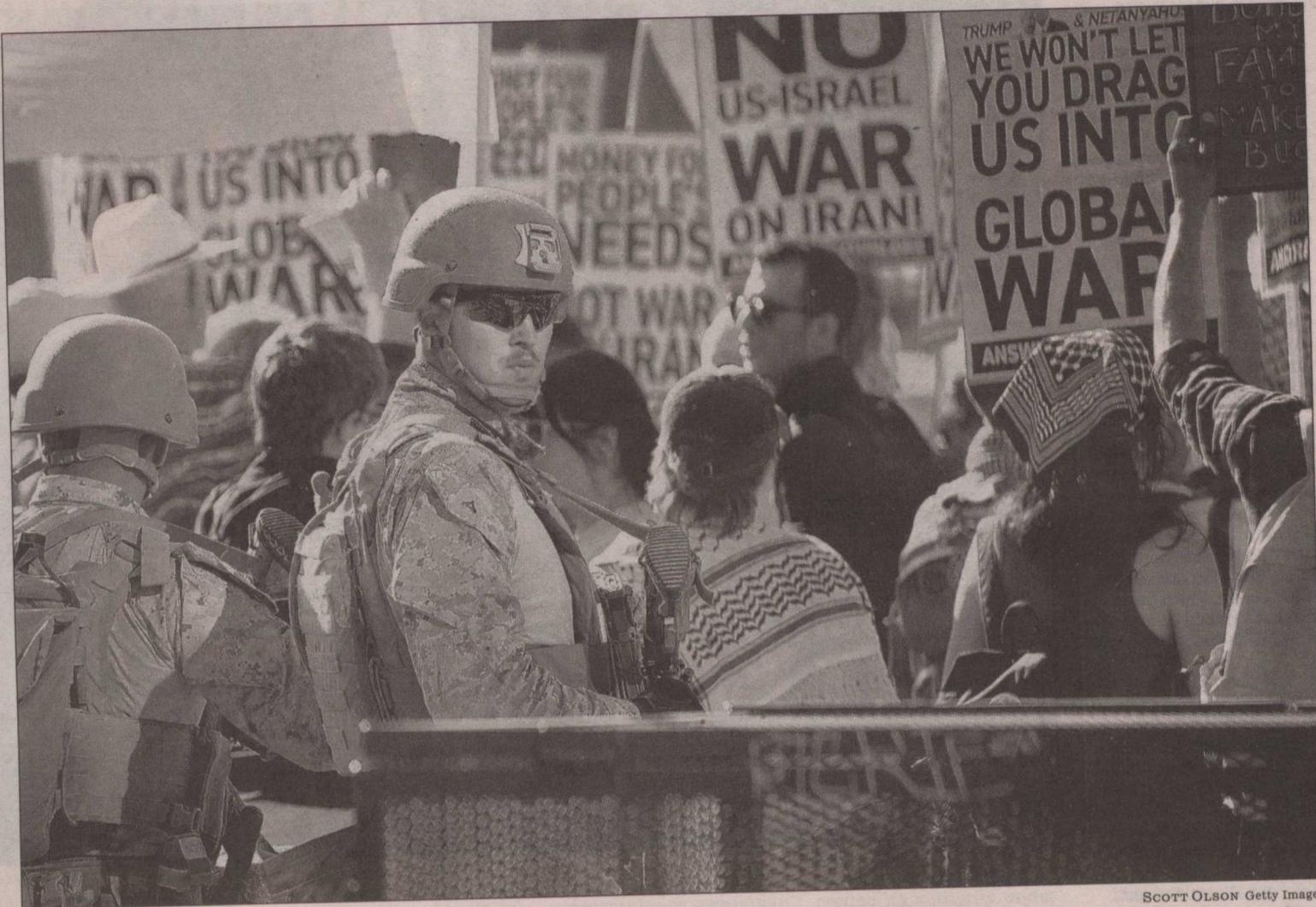
the 9th Circuit decision endorsing Trump's authority to call up troops rendered the Posse Comitatus issue moot.

Some experts feel California's case is strong.

"You literally have military roaming the streets of Los Angeles with civilian law enforcement," said Shilpi Agarwal, legal director of the ACLU of Northern California. "That's exactly what the [act] is designed to prevent."

But Nevitt was more doubtful. Even if Breyer ultimately rules that Trump's troops are violating the law and grants the injunction California is seeking, the 9th Circuit will almost certainly strike it down, he said.

"It's going to be an uphill battle," the attorney said. "And if they find a way to get to the Supreme Court, I see the Supreme Court siding with Trump as well."



SCOTT OLSON Getty Images

**U.S. MARINES** deployed by President Trump stand guard as protesters denounce the U.S. role in the Israel-Iran conflict in Los Angeles.

## Mamdani's win excites many South Asians and Muslims

BY TERRY TANG AND MARIAM FAM

The success of Zohran Mamdani in New York City's Democratic primary for mayor is thrilling for Hari Kondabolu, a stand-up comedian who's been friends with him for 15 years.

Mamdani stunned the political establishment when he declared victory in the primary on Tuesday, a ranked-choice election in which his strongest competition, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, conceded defeat.

When he launched his campaign, the democratic socialist ranked near the bottom of the pack. Now, the 33-year-old state assemblyman has a chance to be New York City's first Asian American and Muslim mayor.

Mamdani's family came to the United States when he was 7, and he became a citizen in 2018. He was born to Indian parents in Kampala, Uganda.



A CAMPAIGN poster for candidate Zohran Mamdani outside a New York store.

more than 300,000 South Asian residents have been inspired by Mamdani's extraordinary trajectory.

2002 anti-Muslim riots that left more than 1,000 people dead. An investigation approved by the Indian

My family in California, they were very much like, 'Oh, it's so nice to see a South Asian Muslim candidate.'

I felt seen by him in a way

agree that Mamdani's campaign has demonstrated social media savvy and authenticity. He visited multiple mosques. In videos, he speaks in Hindi or gives a touch of Bollywood. Other South Asian American politicians such as Democratic Bay Area congressman Ro Khanna praised that.

"I love that he didn't run away from his heritage. I mean, he did video clips with Amitabh Bachchan and Hindi movies," said Khanna, referencing the Indian actor. "He shows that one can embrace their roots and their heritage and yet succeed in American politics."

But his triumph also reflects "the urgency of the economic message, the challenge that people are facing in terms of rent, in terms of the cost of living, and how speaking to that is so powerful," Khanna said.

Tanzeela Rahman, a daughter of Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh, said she grew up "very low income" in New York.

New York City who have income levels above the median. But his campaign and "great kind of sound bites" earned support from that demographic too, according to Sur.

"It was, I think, a surprise that he did so well among the wealthiest, including his own community," Sur said.

Mamdani's outspoken support for Palestinian causes and criticism of Israel and its military campaign in Gaza resonated with pro-Palestinian residents, including Muslims, but caused tension in the mayor's race. Some of his positions and remarks on the charged issue have drawn recriminations from opponents and some Jewish groups, though he's also been endorsed by some Jewish politicians and activists.

### Racism and xenophobia

Mamdani's success immediately elicited strong anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant rhetoric from some

## OPINION VOICES

**A** FEW MONTHS ago, while visiting the rooftop bar at a Residence Inn in Berkeley, I picked up the city's glossy "official visitors' guide" and searched it for the historical nuggets that these kinds of publications invariably include.

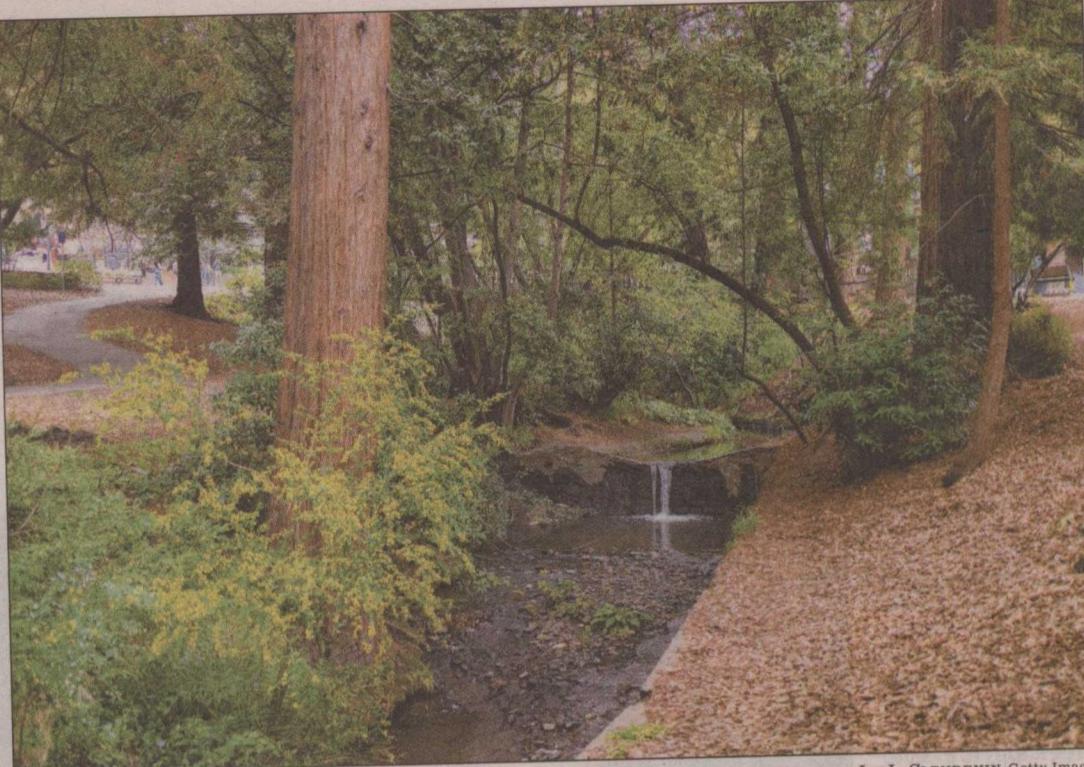
"For thousands of years before the local arrival of Europeans," I read, "Berkeley, and the entire East Bay, was the home of the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone. The specific area of present-day Berkeley was known as Huchiu."

Not too bad for a public-relations freebie, except it then skipped a few millennia in a speed rush to the appearance of the Spanish in the late 1700s, the discovery of gold (1848), the founding of the University of California in Berkeley (1873) and the free speech movement and Summer of Love in the 1960s, which, according to the guide, endowed the city with "a bias for original thinking" and an "off-beat college town vibe."

I've spent most of the last five years digging into California's past to expose UC's role on the wrong side of history, in particular Native American history. Beginning in the early 20th century, scholars at Berkeley (and at USC and the Huntington Library) played a central role in shaping the state's public, cultural identity. They wrote textbooks and popular histories, consulted with journalists and amateur historians, and generated a semiofficial narrative that depicted Indigenous peoples as frozen in time and irresponsible stewards of the land. Their version of California's story reimagined land grabs and massacres as progress and popularized the fiction that Native people quietly vanished into the premodern past.

Today, prodded by new research and persistent Indigenous organizing, tribal groups and a later generation of historians have worked to set the record straight. For thousands of years, California tribes and the land they lived on thrived, the result of creative adaptation to changing circumstances.

When Spanish and American colonizers conquered the West, tribal groups resisted. In fact, the state was one of the country's bloodiest regions in the 19th century, deserving of a vocabulary that we usually associate with other countries and other times: pogroms, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, genocide. Despite this devastation, California's population today includes more than 100 tribes and rancherias.



STRAWBERRY CREEK and canyon, on the UC campus, were Ohlone territory for millennia. JAY L. CLENDENIN Getty Images

**Voices** TONY PLATT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

## The California story we keep erasing

In Berkeley, on and off campus, Indigenous history gets glossed over along with the school's scandalous role in its loss

Very few details from authentic pre-California history filter into our public spaces, our cultural common knowledge. I've become a collector of the retrospective fantasies we consume instead — those few sentences in the Berkeley visitors' guide, Google, whitewashed facts on menus, snippets on maps and in park brochures, what's engraved on a million wall plaques and enshrined on roadside markers. These are the places where most people encounter historical narratives, and where history acquires the patina of veracity.

One Sunday, while waiting for an order of the ethereal lemon-ricotta pancakes at the Oceanside Diner on Fourth Street in Berkeley, I read a bit of history on the menu. The neighborhood, it said, was created in the early 1850s when workers and farmers developed a commercial hub — a grist mill, soap factory, blacksmith and an inn. There was no mention that the restaurant occupied an Ohlone site that flourished for 2,000 to 3,000 years, part of a network of interrelated communities that stretched from

the San Francisco Bay, crossing what is now the Berkeley campus, and following a canyon and a fresh-flowing stream into the hills.

A friend who knows I like rye whiskey recently gave me a bottle of Redwood Empire. The wordy label explains that the whiskey is named after "a sparsely populated area" in Northern California characterized by an "often inaccessible coastline drenched in fog, rocky cliffs, and steep mountains" and "home to majestic coastal redwoods." It's a place "where you can connect with Nature" but apparently not with the tribes who make it their home now and have done since time immemorial.

Traditional travel guides skip the most troubling information and emphasize California as an exemplar of diversity and prosperity. The bad old days are blamed on Franciscan missionaries who, according to the 1997 *Eyewitness Travel Guide* for the state, "used natives as cheap labor" and on "European colonists who committed a more serious crime by spreading diseases that would reduce the na-

tive population to about 16,000 by 1900." This shaky history leapfrogs the crimes of Americans and lands in the mid-20th century when Native Americans, they may be surprised to learn, "opted for integration throughout the state."

Guides have become more hip, though they're still mostly ahistorical. The Wildsam "Field Guide to California," for example, includes "There There," by Tommy Orange (Oakland-born, Arapaho and Cheyenne) on its list of must-read fiction, provides a detailed LGBTQ+ chronology, covers Chez Panisse and the Black Panther Party but also reduces Indigenous history to the "1400s [when] diverse native tribes flourish."

UC Berkeley's botanical garden, with "one of the largest collections of California native plants in the world," is located in Strawberry Canyon, the route followed by generations of Ohlone to hunting grounds in the hills. No plaques in the 34-acre park acknowledge the site's pre-California past and no books in the gift store educate visitors about what contemporary en-

vironmentalists are learning from Indigenous land management practices, such as prescribed burns and selective harvesting.

The gaps created by the tendency to present California's origins sunny-side-up dampen curiosity and contaminate a basic understanding of American history.

For example, the Lawrence Hall of Science, a teaching lab for Berkeley students and a public science center, has initiated a project to "promote a clear understanding of the lived experiences of the Ohlone people." Unfortunately, it dodges the university's role in systematically plundering Indigenous graves in California and appropriating ancestral burial grounds in Los Alamos, N.M., where UC Berkeley had a role in the creation of the atomic bomb.

Similarly, just about everybody on campus knows the story of the free speech demonstrations, but almost nobody knows about the longest, continuous protest movement in the state, and one still being vigorously waged against the university: the struggle to repatriate ancestral remains and cultural objects that began in the 1900s when the Yokayo Rancheria, according to local media accounts, successfully hired lawyers to stop "grave-robbing operations by [Cal] scientists in the vicinity of Ukiah."

Even activists in the Bay Area are not immune to this amnesia. In April, I participated in a rally on the Berkeley campus to protest the Trump administration's devastating attacks on academia. The main speakers, who represented a variety of departments — ethnic studies, African American studies, Latinx studies, Asian American studies and the humanities — defended the importance of anti-racism education and testified to the long history of student protests on the Berkeley campus. What was missing was not only the inclusion of a Native American speaker but also any reference to the ransacking of Indigenous sites that was inseparable from the university's material and cultural foundations.

I'm reminded of Yurok Tribal Court Chief Judge Abby Abinanti's admonition: "The hardest mistakes to correct are those that are ingrained."

Out of history, out of mind.

**TONY PLATT** is a scholar at UC Berkeley's Center for the Study of Law and Society. He is the author of "Grave Matters: The Controversy over Excavating California's Buried Indigenous Past" and, most recently, "The Scandal of Cal."

## LETTERS



CARLIN STIEHL Los Angeles Times  
IMMIGRATION raids are creating problems for local law enforcement agencies.

**'I do not see a democracy'**

what? We've seen no evidence that such threats exist.

If federal authorities say they're going after the worst, then they should do that. But carrying two or three guns to confront a housekeeper is really overkill.

MONTY ARMSTRONG  
Irvine

### Raids could spur infection spread

Re "Patients skip healthcare for fear of ICE," June 24

Staff writer Corinne Purtil's article on health-care avoidance due to Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations highlights a crucial gap: the public health threat posed by undetected infectious diseases.

While missed chronic

gation enforcement that drives vulnerable populations away from healthcare doesn't just harm those individuals; it also creates dangerous blind spots in our infectious disease monitoring systems.

Los Angeles cannot maintain public health while a significant portion of our population remains hidden from medical care. This crisis demands immediate attention to protect all Angelenos.

THOMAS KLITZNER  
Culver City

### Don't silence this safety issue

Re "GOP legislation would ease regulations on gun silencers," June 24

Oh, please. Republican legislators are whining about the accessibility of gun silencers under the

bidding of the gun industry. Firearms are the leading cause of death of American children and teens. Can't Republicans think of anything productive they might do to help solve that problem?

LOREN LIEB  
Northridge

So Republicans in Congress want potential mass shooters, school shooters and presidential assassins to have ready access to silencers and sawed-off shotguns without being subject to a background check or paying a tax.

Tell me this: How is a good guy with a gun supposed to stop a bad guy with a gun if he doesn't know where the shots are coming from?

If only Senate Republicans had thought to pass similar legislation back in 2022 before 19 elementary

# Fire survivor not letting age get in her way

[Calvert, from A1]  
self," Calvert said.

Calvert stands about 5 foot 1, has smile lines around her big blue eyes and keeps her strawberry-blond bob neatly curled. The winner of senior badminton and table tennis competitions around the world, she is, at her core, an athlete — competitive, confident and, perhaps, a bit headstrong.

On a warm, late May afternoon, she showed off the upstairs apartment her daughter and son-in-law fixed up for her on their wooded property in rural Bonny Doon: The fuzzy white mat where she does 15 push-ups every day. The makeup-strewn vanity table where, she said, "I make myself gorgeous."

"It's quite a change for me, going from an ocean view to the redwoods," she said. "But I'm making the adjustment. Which proves to me that you can be 100 years old and change if you have to."

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Change came on Jan. 7. That morning, Calvert was at home with her part-time caregiver, who helped her around the house during the day. Just after 10:30 a.m. came a call from her step-daughter, Cheryl Calvert.

Cheryl — who is married to the son of Lee's late second husband — has lived in Malibu for some 40 years. She knew high winds were in the forecast, which meant possible power shutoffs and fire. She was driving to pick up extra dog food and was near Pepperdine University when, to the east, she spotted "the tiniest, tiniest piece of smoke."

She dialed Calvert, who answered with a chipper: "Oh, hi, honey! Are you coming for lunch?"

Cheryl did not mention the smoke. Or the newly reported fire popping up on her FireWatch app. She asked Calvert to gather a few things — a jacket, some jeans, her cellphone — but the centenarian kept chatting cheerfully.

Cheryl, 68, knew that if she tried to get Calvert herself, she might hit road closures and gridlock and not make it in time. And she figured that if she told Calvert there was a fire, she might panic — and not want to quickly leave her beloved Tahitian Terrace, where there is only one steep, narrow road out.

So, Cheryl fibbed. She said she would meet Calvert in Santa Monica for lunch — even though she was headed back to her own home, which she worried might burn.

Grab your things, she pleaded, and have your caregiver drive you. Calvert was in no hurry.

Cheryl said she started yelling: "Lee, you are leaving! Get out now!"

"I thought, 'This is a crazy request. But Cheryl is such a good friend,'" Calvert said. "I said, 'But! But! But!' And she said: 'Do it, Lee.' She had a firmness in her voice. I said, 'OK.'"

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Calvert moved to Tahitian Terrace around 1967. She was in her early 40s and newly divorced.

She and her ex-husband had lived in a three-bedroom house on Erskine Drive with their son and daughter, who had attended the then-newly built Palisades High School.

But after the divorce, money got tight. She rented out the house and paid



Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

**CENTENARIAN** Lee Calvert chats with other family members she'd run into while on a walk with her son-in-law, John Lingemann, 81.

coffee, Calvert specified — and a sense of camaraderie.

It was as good a landing spot as any for a woman who had spent her whole life hustling.

Her family had been plunged into poverty after the 1929 stock market crash. She was 5 years old at the time. They lived in the Mission District in San Francisco, and her father lost his job hand-painting the striping on Cadillac cars. The family moved to Los Angeles, hoping he could find work.

Unable to afford rent during the Great Depression, they bounced from home to home.

During a stint in Studio City, "Mother had some rabbits she would kill for our suppers and cook over an open fire [and] she had my brother go behind the local market and try to rescue some vegetables that were thrown out at the end of the day," Calvert wrote in a six-page autobiography. "I knew we were in trouble and always hungry. I got sick — no sanitation."

She and her younger sister attended free acting and dance classes taught by out-of-work artists through the federal Works Progress Administration. As a teenager, she landed theater acting gigs, making \$60 a week — more than her father.

And after the U.S. entered World War II, she volunteered as a USO girl, dancing with young soldiers on the Santa Monica Pier,

she said, "before they went overseas to God knows what."

"When I was young," she said, "I was not exactly ugly."

Between shows and dances, she wrote letters to her older brother, Gene M. Hirsch, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Forces who had always looked out for her and kept her laughing during their difficult upbringing.

On Sept. 11, 1942, Hirsch, age 24, and nine other soldiers stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson were in a B-24 Liberator on the return leg of a training flight to Nebraska. Amid bad weather, their plane crashed into a mountain in eastern Arizona. All of them died.

Calvert kept the letters from her brother — which she still pulled out to read, just to feel close to him — in a lockbox in her closet.

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Just after Calvert moved to Tahitian Terrace, the park's owner asked most of the residents to temporarily move their trailers during the construction of the adjacent Temescal Canyon Road.

The Times reported in 1968 that Palisades residents regarded Temescal as "an escape route which will allow them to get into the community if landslides block the coast highway."

Calvert — who would become Tahitian Terrace's

longest-term resident — pleaded for special permission to stay, despite the near-constant construction noise.

She worked from home and had her own business, creating TV and movie continuity scripts, which meticulously detail dialogue, sound effects, music and scene descriptions in the order they appear on screen.

The work required silence and concentration. So she flipped her schedule.

"I slept during the day, when I could," Calvert said. "It was a lot of noise and scraping machinery. So I worked at night. I had to rescue the business, because otherwise I wasn't going to make it."

Calvert did make it, though, and kept working until she was 88. Among the shows for which she did continuity scripts: "The Lucy Show," "Laverne & Shirley," "Cheers," "Star Trek," "The Good Wife" and "NCIS."

In 1968, she married again, this time to Larry Calvert — a World War II veteran and aeronautical engineer. He was a fellow badminton player who encouraged her to travel the world competing in the sport, for which she earned

more than 200 medals and induction into the USA Badminton Hall of Fame.

They built a happy life together at Tahitian Terrace for 31 years. Larry died in 1999.

In August 2024, Calvert turned 100. Neighbors and

her family threw two big parties at Tahitian Terrace, where the clubhouse was decorated in her favorite color, royal blue.

Theirs is a hilly 29-acre property, filled with vegetable gardens, citrus and avocado trees and the flowers Nancy grows for her business making wedding floral arrangements.

Calvert, who had a few falls in recent years, climbs the hills in orthopedic tennis shoes. She uses a cane at her daughter's urging. And sometimes leaves it behind on purpose.

"I'm more careful now," Calvert said, grinning. "I've never known anything about being careful. But I have learned."

For Mother's Day, Nancy surprised her with a large framed portrait of her brother, Gene, in his military uniform. Calvert thought all her photos had burned — but Nancy had made digital copies before the 100th birthday party.

It sits on the vanity table in her new apartment next to Nancy and John's house. Across the room hang several medals. The Huntsman World Senior Games — upon learning that many of her badminton and table tennis medals burned — sent several replacements.

"I could be devastated, losing so much," Calvert said on a recent afternoon. "I mean, I lost treasures that I wanted to give to my great-grandchildren. I wanted to give them little things I had that I thought were important."

Nancy gently interjected, putting her arm around her: "But you know, Mom, those things are not that important. They love you for who you are."

"Well, they'll just have to do that, won't they?" she said, laughing. "I don't have a choice anymore."

::

On a recent Wednesday afternoon, Calvert posted up at a pingpong table at the London Nelson Community Center in downtown Santa Cruz for a game of senior doubles.

"I don't want you to take it easy," she told Perry Brown, her competitor across the table. "I can only keep up my game if I push myself."

Calvert, a lefty, had a steely-eyed game face, grin-



[Court, from A1]  
while the Dem pointees dissent

These rulings, nificant, were short of nation mark decision brated victories publican half but having no d mediate effect cratic-led states.

California laws not likely to pass to restrict gender care or to prohibit Medicaid from birth control, testing or medications at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

The new decisions ended the Dobbs vs. Roe years ago that Roe vs. Wade and the constitutional right to

As the consequences noted, the Dobbs vs. Jackson Health did not change nationwide. It did allow some states to do so. South and Michigan adopted new laws, it most or all across.

On this front, decisions reflect conservatism, or states-right conservatism, dominant in decades under Presidents Ronald Reagan and Sandra Day O'Connor.

Both were Republicans (and in the former's case, a former legislator) who supported court with the Washington hold on power and wielded control over state governments.

With the nation divided along party lines, today's conservative could be praised for freeing states to different choices in culture wars.

The other big story far this year has been and his broad conservative power.

Since returning to the White House, Donald Trump has assumed total authority to



# Parker's impressive resume speaks

[Parker, from D1]

Tennessee's recruiting director in 2003 and was looking to make a splash with her first class. The moment she saw Parker in person, she was certain: Parker would be a Lady Vol.

By her senior year in high school, Parker had grown into a 6-foot-4 national player of the year and state champion.

Fargas attended all of Parker's games at Naperville Central High, a nearly 1,100-mile round trip. She sat in the Redhawks' gym bleachers, decked out in Tennessee orange while sending a not-so-subtle message, often with Summitt by her side.

Fargas made her final pitch clear and direct: Parker could become the greatest under Summitt.

## 'Traveling with rock stars' at Rocky Top

On Nov. 11, 2003, at the start of her senior year, Parker committed to Tennessee live on ESPNNews — the first women's basketball player to commit on national TV. Parker later told ESPN, "I wanted to be a professional basketball player. I loved that Knoxville was centered around women's basketball."

"Candace is the most versatile 6-foot-3 player at this stage of her game that I've ever seen," Summitt said in a Tennessee news release announcing Parker's signing a letter of intent. "She can play every position on the floor, from point guard to post, ... Truly a great inside-outside player. ... The total package."

Parker's arrival sent a jolt through Rocky Top. At just 18, she brought weighty expectations — it was championship or bust. For several years, it had been bust for Tennessee, which hadn't won a national title since the late '90s.

After missing her freshman year because of a knee injury, Parker proved to be better than advertised, propelling the Lady Vols back onto the national stage.

"Even in college, not only did she dunk, but she was able to pass, able to shoot at her position, able to do things that bigs weren't doing," said Noelle Quinn, a former Southland prep star and head coach of the Seattle Storm. "It was easy for Candace. It was easy for that team."

Quinn experienced the Summitt-Parker era firsthand. In 2006, she led UCLA into an early-season clash on the road against No. 1 Tennessee — the start of Parker's first title run.

"It was an amazing environment to play in — a game I'll never forget," Quinn recalled. Parker and Quinn led their teams in scoring — Parker with 22 points, Quinn with 20. Tennessee's dominance with Parker at the helm was clear, Quinn said.

At the height of the team's back-to-back championship runs, Fargas said traveling with the Lady Vols "was like traveling with rock stars." Summitt's fearless approach — taking on anyone, anywhere — kept Tennessee in the spotlight, with Parker as the undisputed headliner.

"What we're seeing right now with Angel Reese and Caitlin Clark — bringing awareness, getting people to watch and increasing attendance — Parker was doing that already," Fargas said. "Fans would be lined up at our hotel. Our bus would pull up and there were the fans."

By the end of her college career, Parker had accomplished everything — two-time AP player of the year, 2008 Naismith college player of the year, and most outstanding player during both national title runs — the last of which was Summitt's final championship.

"She fits in at the top," Fargas said of Parker's place in program history. "When you talk about Lady Vols, Parker is maybe the first of the names people talk about.... She was different."

## An L.A. story built on achieving her dreams

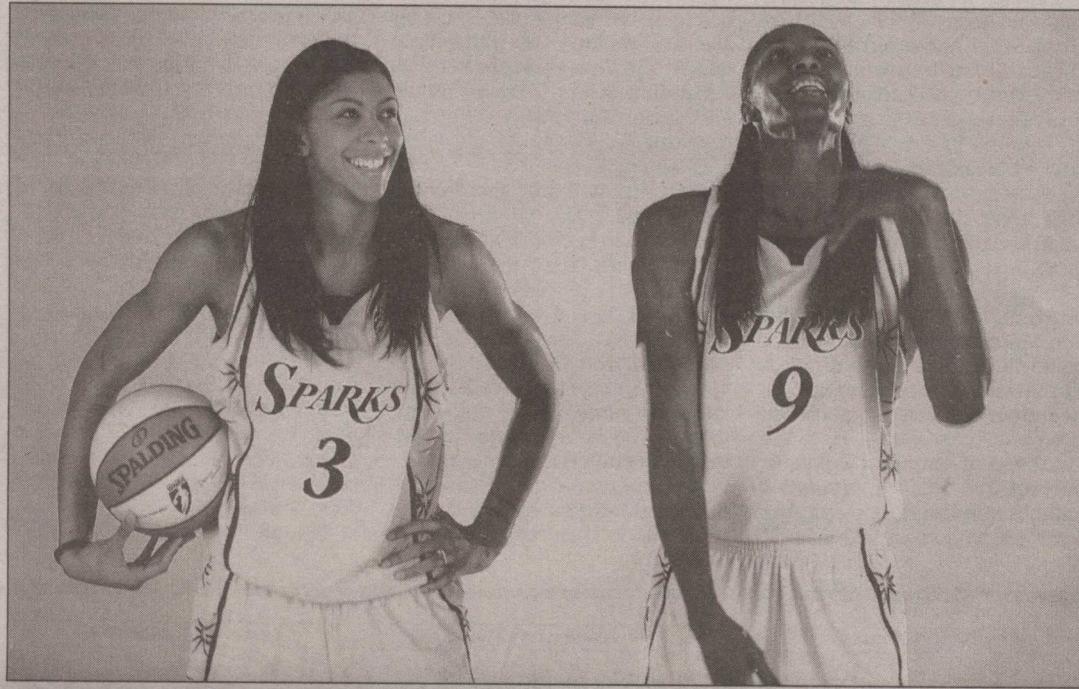
Parker was arguably the WNBA's most anticipated prospect — a franchise-altering talent. Yet one question loomed: Who would land her?

In 2006, the Sparks

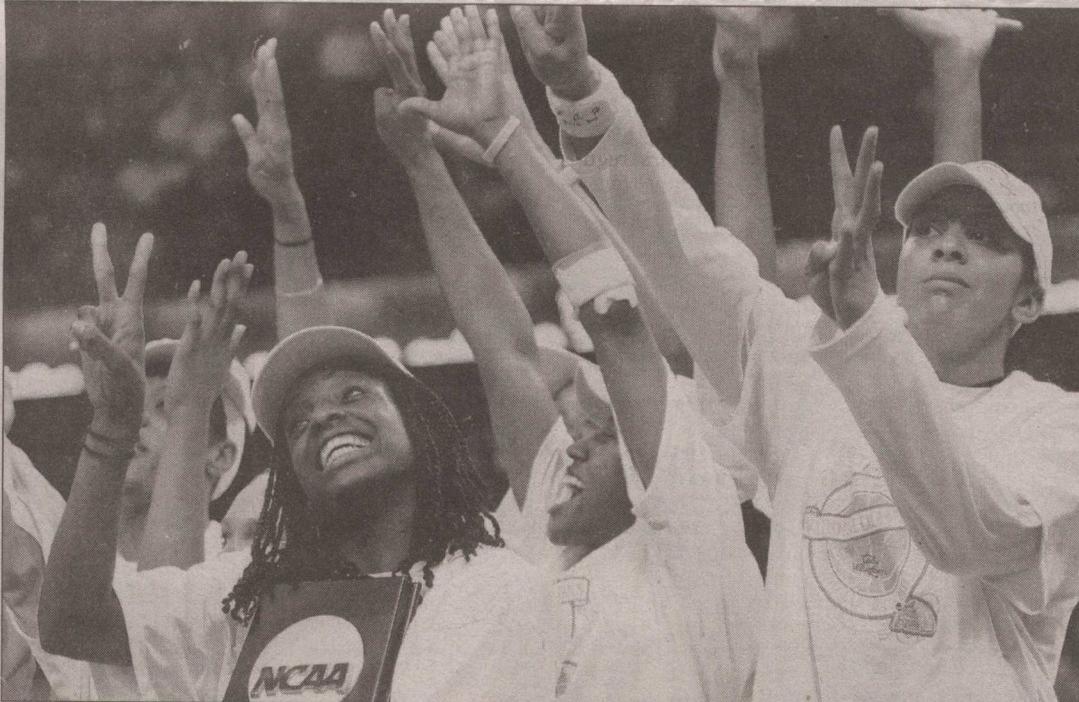


ANNE RYAN Associated Press

CANDACE PARKER takes a load off on the gym's basketball court at Naperville Central High School in Naperville, Ill., in 2003.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press



GERRY BROOME Associated Press

MIDDLE: Parker, left, and Lisa Leslie check their height during a Sparks photo shoot in 2008. Above, Parker holds up eight fingers to signify Tennessee's eight women's basketball titles in 2008.

coach Michael Cooper — helped ignite the greatest rookie season in WNBA history. Parker captured both rookie of the year and MVP honors, joining an exclusive club with NBA legends Wilt Chamberlain and Wes Unseld.

"Candace always showed greatness," Leslie said. "Each generation, we've done our part. You carry that torch as far as you can, and hand it off with grace."

The torch was Parker's to bear into the next decade. But nine seasons in, she was still chasing her

and mourned the loss of Summitt, who died of complications from Alzheimer's.

On the court, Parker remained a force, and helped foster the rise of one of the league's best — former No. 1 overall pick and MVP Nneka Ogwumike. Like Leslie had done for her, Parker took Ogwumike under her wing.

"For the most part, I was someone who paid attention to what vets did, and I spent a lot of time watching what she did," Ogwumike said of Parker. "She helped

carousel of head coaches and a growing distrust that ultimately fractured her relationship with the Sparks.

"The culture was toxic, and whether I wanted to admit it or not, I was a part of that culture and had been absorbed in that toxicity," Parker wrote in her book, referring to the breakup. "I had to admit to myself that I didn't like who I'd become in my years with the Sparks. It takes two to tango. So though I didn't create the culture, I was still at fault in my own way."

With wear and tear piling up, Parker announced her retirement — opening with a borrowed line from a Jay-Z verse on the track "Dear Summer":

"Dear Summer, I know you gon' miss me..."

"I love his lyrics, but I love how he's redefined what rappers are capable of," Parker said of Jay-Z during an interview with ESPNW in 2023. "That's what I hope to do for women's basketball players. ... I want to be that business leader, that business mind."

Soon after retiring, Parker



# CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



ELAINE Simkin touches a wall in her home gutted by the Saddleridge fire in Porter Ranch on Oct. 12, 2019.

## Edison equipment flaw sparked two fires in 6 years, lawyers say

SCE says its equipment might have ignited this year's Hurst fire in the San Fernando Valley but denies its equipment sparked a 2019 fire

By MELODY PETERSEN

Southern California Edison's admission that its equipment may have ignited the Hurst fire in the San Fernando Valley on Jan. 7 is being seized on by lawyers suing the utility company for another fire in the same area nearly six years earlier.

Both the Saddleridge fire in 2019 and the Hurst fire this year started beneath an Edison high-voltage transmission line in Sylmar. The lawyers say faulty equipment on the line ignited both blazes in the same way.

"The evidence will show that five separate fires ignited at five separate SCE transmission tower bases in the same exact manner as the fire that started the Saddleridge fire," the lawyers wrote of the Hurst fire in a June 9 filing in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

The lawyers said the January wildfire is "further evidence" that a transmission pylon known as Tower 2-5 "is improperly grounded."

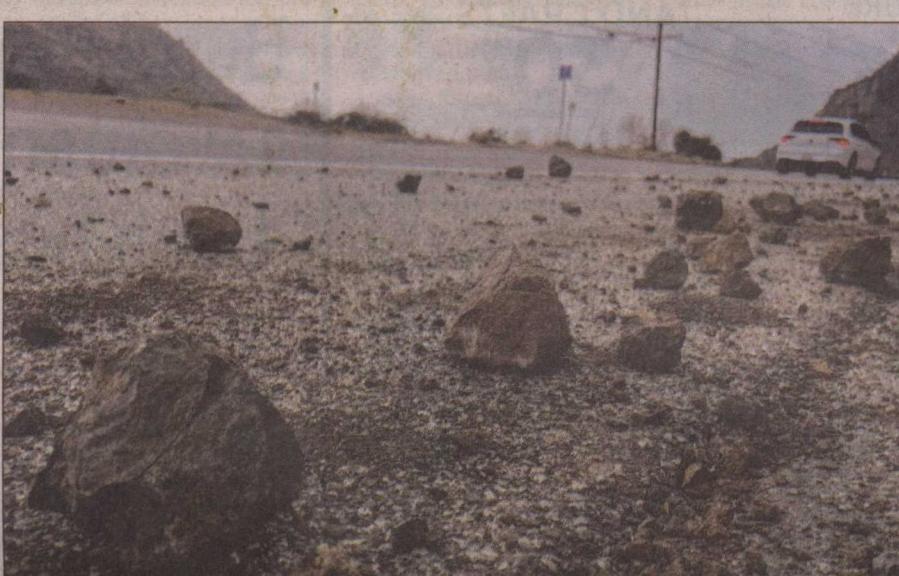
Edison told the state Public Utilities Commission in February that "absent additional evidence, SCE believes its equipment may be associated with the

ignition of the Hurst Fire." But the company denies claims that its equipment sparked the 2019 fire, which tore through Sylmar, Porter Ranch and Granada Hills — all suburbs of Los Angeles — burning 8,799 acres.

"We will continue to focus on facts and evidence — not on preposterous and sensational theories that only serve to harm the real victims," said Edison spokesman David Eisenhauer. He declined further comment on the case.

The Saddleridge wildfire destroyed or damaged more than 100 homes and [See Edison, B4]

7 faults  
that  
could  
really  
shake  
things up



## Man suspected of posing as a federal agent is arrested

Huntington Park police say they found lights and radios in an L.A. resident's vehicle.

By RUBEN VIVES

The Huntington Park Police Department arrested a man recently who they suspect was trying to pose as a federal immigration agent and was in possession of an unlicensed handgun, copies of U.S. Department of Homeland Security removal notices and a list of radio codes for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Huntington Park Police Chief Cosme Lozano said that the arrest occurred at 10 p.m. Tuesday in the 7000 block of S. Alameda Street, after police officers came across a silver Dodge Durango with tinted windows that was illegally parked in a handicap zone.

Fernando Diaz, 23, of Los Angeles was taken into custody that night, he said. Officers arrested Diaz after they learned he was carrying an unlicensed concealed weapon in the vehicle, Lozano

said. They also learned he had an outstanding bench warrant related to a DUI case. Diaz has since been released on \$5,000 bail, city officials said.

Diaz could not immediately be reached for comment.

Lozano provided details of the arrest during a Friday afternoon news conference at Huntington Park City Hall and included a large photo of Diaz and a table that displayed the items recovered from inside his vehicle, including radios, cellphones and more than a dozen DHS notices from 2022 to "detain, remove or present alien."

At least one document included a list of names with asterisks drawn next to them. Another list included about a dozen names next to room numbers and the words "present."

Lozano said when officers came across the Dodge Durango, they noticed that the vehicle did not have a handicap placard and was missing a front license plate. When they got closer, they could see the vehicle was equipped with red-and-blue [See Agent, B5]

## Officials working to fight fraudulent college enrollment

By KAITLYN HUAMANI

California community college officials are working to overcome a serious predicament involving hundreds of thousands of fake students and hefty financial aid losses.

It's possible this multi-million-dollar problem could be solved, in part, with a \$10 fee.

At a meeting last month of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, officials discussed a proposal to charge prospective students a \$10 application fee — applying to one of the state's 116 community colleges has historically been free.

As officials prepare to put into place measures to prevent fraud, the charge is one

more possible way to weed out those who are gaming the system to steal millions in financial aid dollars. At the May 20 meeting, the proposal seeking approval to explore the implementation of a "nominal" application fee was met with lengthy and spirited debate — with some fearing the fee would be seen as an obstacle for new students, many of whom are low-income.

But the severity and volume of the fraud have caused the chancellor's office to consider the charge, which would represent a fundamental change from the system's open-access model.

**How are fraudsters scamming the system?**

Of those who applied to [See Fraud, B6]

## Political advisor says he was detained after



eady been affected by the Trump administration's crackdown on immigrants working in the country without documentation. Dozens of Southeast Asian immigrants in Los Angeles and Orange counties whose deportation orders had been on indefinite hold have been detained after showing up for routine check-ins at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, according to immigration attorneys and advocacy groups.

In recent months, a number of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese immigrants whose deportation orders had been stayed — in some cases for decades — have been told that those orders will now be enforced.

The Asian immigrants being targeted are generally people who were convicted of a crime after arriving in the U.S., making them subject to deportation after their release from jail or prison. In most cases, ICE never followed through because the immigrants had lived in the U.S. long enough that their home countries no longer recognized them as citizens.

"Our community is much more silent, but we are being detained in really high numbers," said Connie Chung Joe, chief executive of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California.



**AAPI** leaders warn that immigration raids could soon target Asian communities.

"There's such a stigma and fear that, unlike the Latinx community that wants to fight and speak out about the injustices, our community's first reaction is to go down and get more and more hidden."

On Thursday, more than a half-dozen leaders representing Thai, Japanese and South Asian communities held a news conference in Little Tokyo urging community members to stand together and denounce the federal action as an overreach.

President Trump came into office in January vowing to target violent criminals for deportation. But amid pressure to raise deportation numbers, administration officials in recent months have shifted their focus to farmworkers, landscapers, street vendors and other day laborers, many of whom have been working in the country for decades.

While an estimated 79% of undocumented residents

in L.A. County are natives of Mexico and Central America, Asian immigrants make up the second-largest group, constituting 16% of people in the county without legal authorization, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Across the U.S., Indians make up the third-largest group of undocumented residents, behind Mexicans and Salvadorans.

According to the Pew Research Center, the L.A. metropolitan area is home to the largest populations of Cambodian, Korean, Indonesian, Filipino, Thai and Vietnamese people in the U.S.

So far, the highest-profile raids in Southern California have centered on Latino neighborhoods, targeting car washes, restaurants, home improvement stores, churches and other locales where undocumented residents gather and work.

But Asian businesses have not been immune. A raid outside a Home Depot in Hollywood happened

near Thai Town, where organizers have seen ICE agents patrolling the streets. In late May, Department of Homeland Security agents raided a Los Angeles-area nightclub, arresting 36 people they said were Chinese and Taiwanese immigrants in the country without authorization.

In Little Bangladesh, immigration agents recently detained 16 people outside a grocery store, said Manjusha P. Kulkarni, executive director of AAPI Equity Alliance, a coalition of more than 50 community-based organizations.

"They will come for us even more in the coming days and weeks," Kulkarni said. "So we are only protected when we're in solidarity with our fellow Angelenos."

From June 1 to 10, ICE data show that 722 people were arrested in the Los Angeles region. The figures were obtained by the Deportation Data Project, a reposi-

Park and west San Gabriel Valley, areas with large Asian immigrant populations.

Los Angeles City Councilmembers Nithya Raman and Ysabel Jurado spoke of the repercussions the raids were having on immigrant communities.

Jurado said undocumented Filipinos make up a sizable portion of the region's caregivers.

"Their work reflects the deepest values of our communities: compassion, service and interdependence," Jurado said. "Their labor is essential, and their humanity must be honored."

Jurado and Raman called on the federal government to end the raids.

"This is such an important moment to speak out and to ensure that the Latino community does not feel alone," Raman said. "I also want to make it clear to every single person who is Asian American, these aren't just raids on others. They're raids on us."

Times staff writer Rachel Uranga contributed to this report. This article is part of The Times' equity reporting initiative, funded by the James Irvine Foundation, exploring the challenges facing low-income workers and the efforts being made to address California's economic divide.

end of the program.

The data gathered in the program applies to ecology, weather, oceanography, soil science, biology and satellite calibration/validation research. The P-3 is typically stationed out of Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia and has a science payload that can support a combined 40 hours of science flights on each U.S. coast, according to NASA.

The King Air B200 will fly at the same time as the P-3, but will not perform the same maneuvers.

NASA students will get real-world experience during their eight-week program as they assist in gathering data with scientific instruments on the aircraft, NASA said.

"Despite SARP being a learning experience for both the students and mentors alike, our P-3 is being flown and performing maneuvers in some of [the] most complex and restricted airspace in the country," Brian Bernth, chief of flight operations at NASA Wallops, said in a statement.

The aircraft will also make what looks like missed landings at local airports and buzz by runways to collect air samples along the ground.

In previous SARP flights over Southern California, the aircraft buzzed over Glendale and other locales.

## Palisades reservoir that was empty during firestorm is back online

By IAN JAMES

Santa Ynez Reservoir in Pacific Palisades, which was empty and undergoing repairs at the time of the January firestorm, is finally back online, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power announced Thursday.

The reservoir had been out of service since early 2024 because its floating cover had a significant tear that needed to be fixed.

DWP officials had thought the repairs were complete about three months ago, but in April crews discovered as they were refilling the reservoir that there were further tears and leaks in the floating cov-

er. They then drained the reservoir again to allow for additional repairs.

The DWP said that, as part of the work, a crew of divers helped find and repair "pinhole sized" leaks in the cover, and that the reservoir is now operational after workers finished inspections and testing.

"Repairs took longer than expected, as rainstorm damage, sun exposure and wildfire embers had further deteriorated the cover's condition," said Adam Perez, the DWP's interim director of water operations.

"It was a delicate balance between expediting repairs while ensuring there are no remaining issues with the cover when we put the reservoir back in service," Perez

said, thanking the contractors and workers "for their hard work and dedication to restoring the reservoir to operation."

The DWP announced in an emailed statement that the reservoir is now operational again. It did not address ongoing inquiries into why the reservoir was offline during the Palisades fire, and whether this may have contributed to water-supply problems as firefighters encountered hydrants that had lost pressure and run dry.

DWP officials did not respond to requests on Thursday for additional information about the status of the inquiries.

L.A. City Councilmember Traci Park, who represents

the area, said the completion of the lengthy repairs points to a need for improvement in how the city manages infrastructure.

"While I'm glad it's now back in service, the reservoir has been offline since early 2024, including on the one day in history it was needed most," Park said. "Our water infrastructure must be emergency-ready, every day. Anything less puts everything we hold dear at risk."

Residents in Pacific Palisades have questioned why the reservoir was empty when the Palisades fire erupted and destroyed thousands of homes.

In all, the January fires in Pacific Palisades, Altadena and nearby areas claimed at least 30 lives, and damaged

or destroyed more than 18,000 homes and other buildings.

The reservoir's floating cover, made of synthetic rubber, is needed to protect the stored water to comply with federal drinking water regulations.

The DWP drained the reservoir in early 2024 after workers found water pooling on the cover and determined there was a significant tear. The agency said the tear grew to about 100 feet after rains, which complicated the repair work.

The task of fixing the cover was put out for a competitive bid, a process that ultimately took nine months. Only one vendor, Layfield Group, submitted a bid for the work, which was for-

mally approved in late 2024.

Repairs had not yet begun when the Palisades fire erupted in January. After the fire, Layfield's team was sent to do the initial repairs and to inspect for additional damage.

With the repairs now completed, the DWP said in the statement that its engineers were working on solutions for the reservoir's cover "that will incorporate an enhanced design for greater durability and extended service life."

The reservoir, which is now partially filled, has a total storage capacity of 117 million gallons.

Times staff writer Matt Hamilton contributed to this report.

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## Special Occasions



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Pulitzer-winning investigative bulldog, music-industry truth-teller, relentless champion of the under-dog — Chuck packed more scoops (and jokes) into one lifetime than most newsrooms print in a decade. On Friday, July 4, 2025, we'll give him the send-off he always pictured: big stories, stronger drinks, fireworks, and the Pacific rolling in at our feet.

When

Friday, July 4, 2025 • Gather  
6:30 p.m.

Dinner ~ 7 p.m.

Fireworks ~ 9 p.m.

Where

"Beachside" Room, Shutters on the Beach (1 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica). A spacious ocean-front salon that opens straight onto the sand — plenty of room for every friend who wants to toast Chuck.

Dress

Newsroom-casual meets beach-breezy — Hawaiian shirts and dark sunglasses encouraged. But come in your own trade-marked style and stories.

Why

To trade legendary Chuck stories, cry, laugh until the tide comes in, and raise a glass to a life lived in ALL CAPS.

Bring & Share

• Your favorite Chuck anecdote — brief or bawdy, the mic is yours.

• Memorabilia — clips, photos, set lists, subpoenas... whatever sparks a grin.

• Appetite — sunset cocktails, coastal-fresh dinner, and bottomless coffee (he'd haunt us if we skipped the coffee).

Required Reading

Before you arrive, dive into Michael Hiltzik's LA Times tribute "The Legacy of Chuck Phillips." It captures the spirit we'll be celebrating. <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-02-06/chuck-phillips-remade-music-industry-news-coverage>

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**FSMITI**

**WLOHOL**

**GAROEFT**

**MNUIEM**

**SGEKTA**

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Let's go New York!  
Don't tell anyone here that I'm a Tigers fan.  
Well, I'm a Cub fan.  
Excuse me.  
Hit the ball!  
We got you this series.  
I think this is the year.  
No way!

6 29  
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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# Man suspected of impersonating a federal agent

Andrew Biscay, 40, was arrested Friday in Madera County, authorities say.

By CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

Police in California's Central Valley have arrested a man on suspicion of impersonating a federal agent.

Deputies received re-

sonating a federal agent. Deputies said they found in his possession crude law enforcement equipment and outfits, which they called "disturbing."

Andrew Biscay, 40, was arrested Friday on suspicion of impersonating a U.S. marshal, possession of a makeshift weapon and other felonies, the Madera County Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies received re-

ports of a family disturbance near Avenue 12 and Road 22, which led to a vehicle search where they found the law enforcement gear, much of it handmade.

Biscay was arrested in connection with outstanding vandalism warrants and on suspicion of impersonating an officer.

Photos posted online by the Sheriff's Office show a Ford F-150 with a star mark-

ing on the driver's side door, an improvised pistol constructed with a spring-action barrel, ammunition and a fake U.S. marshal's uniform with coarsely painted-on credentials.

Biscay was booked on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges, and bail was set at \$70,000, authorities said.

The arrest comes weeks after Vance Boelter, 57, alleg-

edly posed as a police officer and fatally shot a Minnesota lawmaker and her husband in their home. In March, a Riverside man was arrested on suspicion of pulling over unsuspecting drivers.

The recent ICE raids and arrests in Southern California have also prompted fear among many locals of law enforcement agents who flash weapons but wear no badges or identifiable uni-

forms, drive unmarked vehicles and cover their faces. The Madera County Sheriff's Office could not be reached for comment on Biscay's possible motives.

Anyone in Madera County who suspects they may have encountered an individual falsely identifying themselves as law enforcement has been asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at (559) 675-7770.

# J OBS

## Collectibles and Memorabilia

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## Special Occasions



Celebrate the life and  
Celebrate the Life & Legacy  
of Chuck Philips

Pulitzer-winning investigative bulldog, music-industry truth-teller, relentless champion of the underdog — Chuck packed more scoops (and jokes) into one lifetime than most newsmen print in a decade. On Friday, July 4, 2025, we'll give him the send-off he always pictured: big stories, stronger drinks, fireworks, and the Pacific rolling in at our feet.

Friday, July 4, 2025 • Gather  
6:30 p.m. •  
Dinner ~ 7 p.m.  
Fireworks ~ 9 p.m.  
Where

"Beachside" Room, Shutters on the Beach (1 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica). A spacious ocean-front salon that opens straight onto the sand — plenty of room for every friend who wants to toast Chuck.

Dress  
Newsroom-casual meets beach-breezy — Hawaiian shirts and dark sunglasses encouraged. But come in your own trade-marked style and stories.

Why  
To trade legendary Chuck stories, cry, laugh until the tide comes in, and raise a glass to a life lived in ALL CAPS.

Bring & Share  
• Your Favorite Chuck Anecdote — brief or bawdy, the mic is yours.

• Memorabilia — clips, photos, set lists, subpoenas... whatever sparks a grin.

• Appetite — sunset cocktails, coastal-fresh dinner, and bottomless coffee (he'd haunt us if we skipped the coffee).

Required Reading

Before you arrive, dive into Michael Hiltzik's LA Times tribute "The Legacy of Chuck Phillips." It captures the spirit we'll be celebrating. <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-02-06/chuck-phillips-remade-music-industry-news-coverage>

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Senior Analysts: \$92,706 - \$96,000/year, Los Angeles, CA: Estimate ultimate losses using advanced quantitative methods & review reserves in accordance with carrier guidance. Analyzing program performance dashboards to track profitability & providing insights to support underwriting and claims audits. Send res to: Knight Management Insurance Services LLC DBA Knight Insurance Group at Recruitment@knightcompa

ny.com.

GoElite, Inc. seeks Educational Policy Analyst. Salary: \$82,285+/yr. Mstrs in Publ. Pol., Pol. Sci., Int'l Affairs or rel field reqd. Monitor U.S. educ. policy & prep. forecast reports. Work site: Pasadena, CA. Mail resume to: 680 E. Colorado Blvd. #150, Pasadena, CA 91101

Senior Analysts: \$92,706 - \$96,000/year, Los Angeles, CA: Estimate ultimate losses using advanced quantitative methods & review reserves in accordance with carrier guidance. Analyzing program performance dashboards to track profitability & providing insights to support underwriting and claims audits. Send res to: Knight Management Insurance Services LLC DBA Knight Insurance Group at Recruitment@knightcompa

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Admin Asst w/bach deg & at 1st yr exp CS, Mgmt, Bus or rel Lgl wk auth CV to St.Matthews Home for Elderly 1230 Calle Estrella San Dimas CA 91773

Senior AI Architect at SADA Systems, Inc. (North Hollywood, CA) Bid scalable data pipelines to efficiently ext, transfr, & store data from var. sources & monitor orch. layers for ent. data systs., ensuring seamless int. w/ time-critical bus. apps. Require BS in Comp Sci & Comp Eng, clrs rel, fgn eqv & comp. exp. Pays \$198,432. Add'l duties, rqmts, eval, upon request. Email res & cvr ltr to joseph.obezo@sada.com, ref Job#PA01. EO. Stnd Bnfts.

Senior Architect (AAI Associates, Inc.; Los Angeles, CA): Senior position with an architectural firm that encompasses most architectural activities required in the successful design and building of a project. 15-20 domestic travel. Must be an architect as an architect by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

July 14, 2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. 9

Address of court: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

111 North Hill Street,

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Stanley Mosk Courthouse

If YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the

decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court

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## CITY &amp; STATE



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

## FEELS LIKE SUMMER

Aztec dance troupe Danza Divina de Los Angeles performs at a solstice festival June 21 at Stoneview Nature Center in Culver City.

# Asian leaders urge unity against ICE raids

BY MELISSA GOMEZ

As federal immigration raids continue to upend life in Los Angeles, Asian American leaders are rallying their communities to raise their voices in support of Latinos, who have been the primary targets of the enforcement sweeps, warning that neighborhoods frequented by Asian immigrants could be next.

Organizers say many Asian immigrants have already been affected by the Trump administration's crackdown on immigrants working in the country without documentation. Dozens of Southeast Asian immigrants in Los Angeles and Orange counties whose deportation orders had been on indefinite hold have been detained after showing up for routine check-ins at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, according to immigration attorneys and advocacy groups.

In recent months, a number of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese immigrants whose deportation orders had been stayed — in some cases for decades — have been told that those orders will now be enforced.

The Asian immigrants being targeted are generally people who were convicted of a crime after arriving in the U.S., making them subject to deportation after their release from jail or prison. In most cases, ICE never followed through because the immigrants had lived in the U.S. long enough that their home countries no longer recognized them as citizens.

"Our community is much more silent, but we are being detained in really high numbers," said Connie Chung Joe, chief executive of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California.



AAPI leaders warn that immigration raids could soon target Asian communities.

"There's such a stigma and fear that, unlike the Latinx community that wants to fight and speak out about the injustices, our community's first reaction is to go down and get more and more hidden."

On Thursday, more than a half-dozen leaders representing Thai, Japanese and South Asian communities held a news conference in Little Tokyo urging community members to stand together and denounce the federal action as an overreach.

President Trump came into office in January vowing to target violent criminals for deportation. But amid pressure to raise deportation numbers, administration officials in recent months have shifted their focus to farmworkers, landscapers, street vendors and other day laborers, many of whom have been working in the country for decades.

While an estimated 79% of undocumented residents

in L.A. County are natives of Mexico and Central America, Asian immigrants make up the second-largest group, constituting 16% of people in the county without legal authorization, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Across the U.S., Indians make up the third-largest group of undocumented residents, behind Mexicans and Salvadorans.

According to the Pew Research Center, the L.A. metropolitan area is home to the largest populations of Cambodian, Korean, Indonesian, Filipino, Thai and Vietnamese people in the U.S.

So far, the highest-profile raids in Southern California have centered on Latino neighborhoods, targeting car washes, restaurants, home improvement stores, churches and other locales where undocumented residents gather and work.

But Asian businesses have not been immune. A raid outside a Home Depot in Hollywood happened

near Thai Town, where organizers have seen ICE agents patrolling the streets. In late May, Department of Homeland Security agents raided a Los Angeles-area nightclub, arresting 36 people they said were Chinese and Taiwanese immigrants in the country without authorization.

In Little Bangladesh, immigration agents recently detained 16 people outside a grocery store, said Manjusha P. Kulkarni, executive director of AAPI Equity Alliance, a coalition of more than 50 community-based organizations.

"They will come for us even more in the coming days and weeks," Kulkarni said. "So we are only protected when we're in solidarity with our fellow Angelenos."

From June 1 to 10, ICE data show that 722 people were arrested in the Los Angeles region. The figures were obtained by the Deportation Data Project, a repos-

itory of enforcement data at UC Berkeley Law.

A Times analysis found that 69% of those arrested during that period had no criminal convictions. Nearly 48% were Mexican, 16% were from Guatemala and 8% from El Salvador.

Forty-seven of the 722 individuals detained were from Asian countries.

"We know the fear is widespread and it is deep," said Assemblymember Mike Fong, a Democrat whose district takes in Monterey Park and west San Gabriel Valley, areas with large Asian immigrant populations.

Los Angeles City Councilmembers Nithya Raman and Ysabel Jurado spoke of the repercussions the raids were having on immigrant communities.

Jurado said undocumented Filipinos make up a sizable portion of the region's caregivers.

"Their work reflects the deepest values of our communities: compassion, service and interdependence," Jurado said. "Their labor is essential, and their humanity must be honored."

Jurado and Raman called on the federal government to end the raids.

"This is such an important moment to speak out and to ensure that the Latino community does not feel alone," Raman said. "I also want to make it clear to every single person who is Asian American, these aren't just raids on others. They're raids on us."

Times staff writer Rachel Uranga contributed to this report. This article is part of The Times' equity reporting initiative, funded by the James Irvine Foundation, exploring the challenges facing low-income workers and the efforts being made to address California's economic divide.

# NASA will fly low over SoCal

BY NATHAN SOLIS

Look up in the sky! No, really, look. Are those planes supposed to be that low?

But don't worry, says NASA, because the aircraft you are seeing are conducting research and studying atmospheric data. The planes will take flight over Southern California starting Sunday through Wednesday.

The low-altitude atmospheric flights will be soaring between 1,000 and 10,000 feet, NASA announced in a news release. For comparison, most commercial flights reach between 31,000 to 42,000 feet.

From the ground, the research will look peculiar as the pilots perform vertical spirals, circling over power plants, landfills and urban areas.

NASA did not provide any specifics about the flight path, announcing that the aircraft will buzz over the Los Angeles Basin, Salton Sea and Central Valley.

The flights are part of NASA's Student Airborne Research Program, or SARP, and will involve two aircraft.

The P-3 Orion aircraft (N426NA) and a King Air B200 aircraft (N46L) will make their way across Southern California, but not in the same flight pattern. The P-3 is a modified four-engine turboprop plane used in various research projects and designed for endurance and range, according to NASA.

The flights will be used to conduct various studies and to sample atmospheric gases and measure land and water surfaces. The information will be used as part of the students' research projects, to be presented at the end of the program.

The data gathered in the program applies to ecology, weather, oceanography, soil science, biology and satellite calibration/validation research. The P-3 is typically stationed out of Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia and has a science payload that can support a combined 40 hours of science flights on each U.S. coast, according to NASA.

The King Air B200 will fly at the same time as the P-3, but will not perform the same maneuvers.

NASA students will get real-world experience during their eight-week program as they assist in gathering data with scientific instruments on the aircraft, NASA said.

"Despite SARP being a learning experience for both the students and mentors alike, our P-3 is being flown and performing maneuvers in some of [the] most complex and restricted airspace in the country," Brian Bernth, chief of flight operations at NASA Wallops, said in a statement.

The aircraft will also make what looks like missed landings at local airports and buzz by runways to collect air samples along the ground.

In previous SARP flights over Southern California, the aircraft buzzed over Glendale and other locales.

# Obituaries

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Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes



**Warren Martin  
Campbell**

June 29, 1924 -  
April 2, 2025

Warren Martin Campbell of Northridge passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his forever loving family on April 2, 2025. He was 100 years old.

Warren was born on June 29, 1924, in Montevideo, Minnesota, where he was raised by his loving parents, Donald Thomas and Elma Smith Campbell.

He served in the 89th Infantry Division in Europe in World War II, during which time he corresponded with his future wife, Mary Christine Urner.

Warren and Mary were married on August 17, 1947, in Pasadena, California. They celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in 2022.

Warren received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University and in 1961 joined the faculty at California State University, Northridge. At CSUN, he was a founding member of the Urban Studies Program and co-director for many years of the Master in Public Administration Program, teaching his last class in 2019 at 95 years old. He took great pride in his vital role in his wife Mary's school, The Magic Years Nursery School, founded in 1965.

Warren was a kind, compassionate, and loving person. He was accepting and non-judgmental. He was a good listener and showed a genuine interest in people of all walks of life. He was warm, friendly, and positive. Until his last days, Warren continued to profess that the most important thing in life is love. He was a messenger of kindness and love until the end. Warren loved so deeply and will always be so deeply loved.

Warren is preceded in death by his wife, Mary, his oldest daughter, Lynn Christine Campbell, as well as his brothers Donald and Hervey and his sister Dorothy Peterson. He is survived by his brother Gale Francis Campbell, his daughters Jill Catherine Campbell and Alice Campbell León, his son-in-law Percy Raúl León, and his grandsons Samuel Martin León and Forrester Hammer.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, May 10th, in the Chapel of the Oaks at Eternal Valley Memorial Park and Mortuary in Newhall.

Memorial donations may be given to the Professor Warren Campbell Scholarship -- <https://engage.csun.edu/CampbellEndow> OR the West Valley Food Pantry.

**Halcyon Miller  
Daniels**

October 31, 1936 -  
June 26, 2025

It is with profound sadness



**Kimberly Michel**

The world lost a very special person when Kim Michel passed away peacefully on June 21, 2025, in Santa Clarita, California, at the age of 76. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 3, 1949, Kim was kind, giving, selfless, and compassionate...and truly funny. She lit up the lives of everyone lucky enough to know her.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Dan Michel, who by marrying her, became the luckiest person on earth; her two daughters, Katie Stuman and Lucy Michel Greenberg on whom she showered love, and showed by example how to live with optimism and purpose; her five fabulous grandchildren, Jack, Dylan, Ava, Levi, and Max, who were the bright stars of her universe; and her two loyal dogs, Junior and Buddy. Kim was all about kindness, for which her friends and family cherished her.

Mike was a proud veteran of the US Marines. He was an accomplished guitar player and a respected sommelier.

Educated at St. Francis X. Cabrini and St. John the Evangelist schools, Serra High School, Los Angeles City College and the Professional Culinary Institute.

Mike was known for his sense of humor and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Kim was witty, wise, and endlessly kind. She had a quick mind, a generous heart, and a wonderful sense of humor. She brought joy to everyone who knew her. Her love for her family was fierce and unwavering, and her warmth, laughter, and strength will live on in those she loved.

She will be missed more than any words can express.



**Michael Joseph  
McMahan**

Michael Joseph McMahan passed away on June 18, 2025, at the age of 75 in Santa Barbara, CA. Born May 1, 1950, in Los Angeles, he later moved to Santa Barbara and Mammoth Lakes. Predeceased by parents Gerald and Josephine McMahan, sister Christine Conter, nephew Joseph Conter, and beloved wife Debra McMahan. He is survived by sons Tristan and James McMahan, brother Tom McMahan, sister Karen Farrer and dear friend Patricia Garrett.

Dennis built his companies based on integrity, care, and boldness. His legacy is etched not only into the evolution of the advertising industry, but into the lives of the many people he inspired and uplifted along the way.

Dennis' life story was marked by both resilience and relentless drive. Born to father Carl, a Swedish immigrant, and mother Liela, a Norwegian immigrant, Dennis experienced hardship early on. When he was just 12, his father suffered multiple heart attacks and could no longer work, leaving the family to navigate years of financial struggle.

Soon after his father's heart attack, the family's hardships came to the attention of actor Ozzie Nelson, who was also of Swedish descent. He offered Dennis a job on the set of the popular television show, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, and from then on Dennis would have small parts on the show.

Dennis would then go on to earn a baseball scholarship to the University of Southern California, where he played under the legendary coach Rod Dedeaux and studied public administration (Dennis would later be admitted into the USC baseball hall of fame). To support himself and family, he worked three part-time jobs and began selling radio airtime, laying the foundation for what would become one of the most influential careers in advertising.

Dennis quickly rose through the ranks, eventually being tapped by RKO to run a one-person office in San Francisco. That led to a national role selling television airtime in New York, and soon after, he set out on his own. In the 1960s, Dennis launched U.S. Media, a groundbreaking agency that for the first time banded small buyers together to access prime-time advertising. That bold idea helped spark a multi-billion-dollar industry. In 1970, he founded Western International Media (now Initiative Media) in Los Angeles, which revolutionized media management and transformed how advertisers operated across multiple industries. Under his leadership, Western became the largest media management company in North America, with 40 subsidiaries, before Dennis sold the company in 1995.

Never one to slow down, Dennis returned to his entrepreneurial roots in 2004 when he launched US International Media (USIM). With a vision of combining cutting-edge strategy with personalized service, he once again broke new ground – building one of the most successful independent media agencies in the nation.

Throughout his career, Dennis received many well-deserved accolades. He was named a Horatio Alger Award recipient as a member of the Class of 1998, an honor that recognized his perseverance through adversity, integrity, and commitment to helping others rise. He was designated a South Carolina Ambassador of Economic Development, awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the State of South Carolina, and bestowed South Carolina's highest civilian and service awards: The Order of the Palmetto and The Order of the Silver Crescent.

A true philanthropist, Dennis co-founded AdRelief, a charitable organization designed to help people during times of life crisis, and he also was a founding member of Rebuild LA, which formed after the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Dennis, known to many as "Uncle Dennis", and his family moved from Los Angeles, CA to Charleston, SC in 2001 and since that time he was bicoastal. When in LA Dennis could be found with his kids and grandchildren, at dinner at Dan Tanas, Spago's or La Scala, or with his team at the USIM offices. When in Charleston, he loved to fish and hunt at his family farm and spend time with wife Brooks and their four dogs, watch Jeopardy, and call friends and family on a daily basis.

This is a heartbreaking loss for our family, friends, and for everyone who had the privilege of knowing Dennis. But for all who knew him and the countless lives he touched, his presence endures. We remain inspired by his legacy as we honor the life of a truly extraordinary man.

Dennis is survived by his beloved wife, Brooks, and his three children, Clayton, Alexis, and Ashley (Maxx), as well as his five adored grandchildren, Olivia, Chloe, Charlotte, Goldie and Levi.

A visitation will be held at the J. Henry Stuhr Downtown Chapel on Tuesday, July 1st, 2025, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Services will be held at St. Michael's Anglican Church Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025, at 11:00am. Arrangements by J. Henry Stuhr Inc. - Downtown Chapel.

There will also be a celebration of life ceremony held in Los Angeles, CA at a later date & time.

In lieu of flowers, his family has requested that donations be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation or Wounded Warriors in Dennis' honor.



**Adriana Mary Noonan**

November 30, 1934 - April 27, 2025

Adriana Noonan, born Adriana Van Uxem on November 30, 1934 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on April 27, 2025, at the age of 90. In a poignant twist of fate, her beloved sister, Juliana, born on the same day four years later, died within moments of Adriana. Their extraordinary bond, forged through a lifetime of shared memories, remained unbreakable until the end. Adriana and Juliana were preceded in death by their youngest sister, Christiana, who passed a year and a half earlier.

A descendant of a distinguished family, Adriana was the granddaughter of Walter Schinz, a prominent judge, and the daughter of a highly respected builder, Elmer Van Uxem and her mother Nana Van Uxem. Her heritage was a source of pride, and in later years, Adriana, Juliana, Christiana and their husbands explored their ancestral roots in Germany and Switzerland, visiting neighborhoods that shaped their family's history.

While attending Lawrence College in Wisconsin, she was an active member of the Delta Gamma sorority. It was during this time that she met Robert John Noonan, a student at Marquette University. The two fell deeply in love and married on February 11, 1956. They settled in Van Nuys, California, where they built a vibrant life together.

Known as the "King and Queen of Van Nuys," Adriana and Bob gave birth to six sons—Anthony, Robert John (RJ), Timothy (Tim), Terence (Terry), Kevin, and Richard (Char). They were devoted parents, teaching their boys to play golf and baseball while fostering a tight-knit community. Their home became the neighborhood hub for "court-side happy hour," where neighbors gathered to watch the children play. Adriana and Bob's influence extended beyond their cul-de-sac, as they took active roles in city politics and were featured in Los Angeles Times articles for their community involvement.

Adriana's Catholic faith was a cornerstone of her life, and she and Bob dedicated themselves for many decades to St. Elisabeth Church in Van Nuys until moving to Thousand Oaks, California. Her Celebration of Life will be held at St. Julie Billiart Church in Newbury Park, California, on July 7, 2025, followed by her burial beside Bob on July 8, 2025.

A direct, witty, and no-nonsense woman, Adriana had a zest for life that never dimmed. She enjoyed a great martini or a glass of white wine and was known for her timeless beauty, staying fit and lean throughout her years. Her signature red lipstick was all she needed to enhance her natural elegance. Even after the losses of Bob, Chris, and other loved ones, Adriana remained a beacon of strength, staying joyfully engaged with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Adriana leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and community. She will be deeply missed but forever cherished by her family, friends, and all who knew her.



**Thomas James Metzler**

March 20, 1947 - June 14, 2025

Thomas James Metzler, born March 20, 1947 in Lynwood, CA, passed away peacefully on June 14th, 2025 in Chandler, Arizona.

Tom was the only child of Alberto "Albert" and Marian (Klosterman) Metzler. Tom spent the formative years of his childhood in Whittier California. Tom is survived by his wife of 49 years, Kathy, his two sons, Matthew and Christopher, his daughter in law Taylor, as well as his grandchildren Jackson (17), Madison (15), Tynan (11), Claire (7) and Mila (3).

As a young man, Tom was a talented journalist. As a high school senior, he was awarded a prestigious prize for journalism and was chosen to visit the White House, meeting such American historical figures as Lyndon B Johnson and Robert F Kennedy. Tom had a deep love for American history, especially World War 2, where his father fought at D-day.

Tom earned a scholarship to the University of Southern California, where he found many of the most important relationships that would take him through his life. He joined the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, cheered on his beloved USC football team, and truly earned the moniker "Tommy Trojan". After college, Tom moved to the South Bay of Los Angeles, and eventually settled in Manhattan Beach.

One of the constants in Tom's life was his love of his Trojan football team. After graduating USC in 1969, Tom's dedication to the Trojans never faltered. Saturdays in the fall were always a celebration, with a steady stream of friends, neighbors and more joining in the elation and despair (depending on the season) of the team. Whether the person was not a fan of the team, or even college football, Tom's excitement



**S. Robert Ambrose**

August 10, 1936 - June 21, 2025

S. Robert Ambrose, a beloved family man and devoted public servant, passed away on June 21st, 2025, at the age of 88.

Robert was born in Los Angeles in 1936 to Dorothy and Leo Ambrose. His father worked for North American building P-51s, and his mother was a homemaker. He grew up with his two younger sisters, Eileen and Nancy, in Inglewood, CA. He graduated from Loyola University in 1958 with a degree in political science, and then went on to graduate from Loyola University Law School in 1961. It had been at an event hosted by his law school where he met his wife, Phyllis Ambrose (née Lieb), where he said he spotted her from across the room. He admitted "I did a lot of the talking" but thankfully, that she listened. They wed in 1962 and began a family.

Robert began his career as a civil servant just after law school, clerking for Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Robert Patton. In 1963, he moved to the Los Angeles County Counsel's office where he would continue to work for nearly four decades, while also helping to raise a family of five children. Working his way up from the probate and litigation department to assistant county counsel for the litigation department, he developed a reputation for his dedication, generosity, and love for life. He was a mentor to younger attorneys and a trusted advisor to county leadership, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues across departments. He managed and played on the county counsel softball team and reveled in his yearly role as office "Santa" at the annual office holiday party, often enlisting his children to fill out the softball team roster or act as Santa's elves. Robert's boundless determination helped him outside of his career, as well. In 1997, at the age of 61, Robert ran his first and most memorable marathon, the Los Angeles marathon. He subsequently ran nearly 30 marathons, including Boston and New York.

Upon his retirement as Assistant County Counsel in 2000, he had served for over 15 years at the Division Chief of the General Litigation Division. He was remembered as a dedicated family man, role model, mentor, and stalwart friend. He was generous with his time, support, and encouragement. He knew that the secret to a good life was more than just an occupation, but the connections to all of those around him, and he maintained those connections long after he left the county counsel.

**Halcyon Miller  
Daniels**

October 31, 1936 -  
June 26, 2025

It is with profound sadness



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

## DANCING IN THE STREET

A woman dances a folklorico Friday in a colorful dress between cars at a stoplight along Atlantic Avenue in South Gate. Some drivers gave her money.

# Obituaries

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### Mary Lee Barab

Mary Lee Barab, a beloved mother, grandmother, and tastemaker with an unmistakable eye for beauty, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2025. Born in Santa Monica on June 10, 1945, she was a true daughter of Los Angeles, elegant, curious, and endlessly creative.

Mary Lee graduated from Notre Dame Academy and went on to earn a degree in Design from Woodbury University, launching a life steeped in aesthetics and adventure. In the late 1970s, she co-founded one of the first international furniture import stores on Melrose, helping introduce Angelenos to eclectic pieces from around the world. Her work in interior design wasn't just a career, it was a lifelong calling. She traveled widely, sourcing art, antiques, and inspiration, and her homes and projects reflected her refined, worldly style.

More than her accomplishments, Mary Lee will be remembered for her warmth, her humor, and her signature sense of flair, whether hosting a dinner, styling a room, or simply holding court in a café.

She is survived by her brother, Bill Voigtlander, her children Ava Barab Wilson, David Trombetta, and Elizabeth Bogdanovich, and her grandchildren Albert, Reina, Olivia, and Tallulah each of whom carries a spark of her creative soul and will miss her dearly.

A memorial service will be held in Los Angeles at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



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### Albert Ezroj

Dr. Albert Ezroj passed peacefully at home on Friday, May 23. Albert was the son of Jewish refugees. He grew up in Ensenada and San Diego. After learning English as a second language and as the first in his family to seek higher education, he attended the University of California, San Diego and University of California, Irvine medical school. In 1980 he joined Kaiser Permanente, Orange County where he became a partner. He was extremely dedicated to his colleagues and patients. In exchange he was widely respected and loved. His hobbies included pottery, gardening, and bike rides with the family poodle. Albert was married to Jann Gumbiner for 46 years and they raised three sons: Aaron Ezroj, Daniel Ezroj, and David Ezroj. He was very proud of their professional and personal success. Along with a wife and three sons, he left behind two beloved grandchildren (Noah Ezroj, 6 and Maya Ezroj, 3) and a daughter-in-law Marina Marcus. Albert will be remembered as a kind soul.



### Avalee Metcalf Horn

January 7, 1938 -  
June 15, 2025

Avalee Metcalf Horn peacefully passed away on June 15, 2025. She was born on January 7, 1938, in Holly Springs, Iowa, to Kenneth and Geraldine (Lillie) Metcalf.

A proud graduate of Holly Springs-Hornick High School, Class of 1956, Avalee went on to earn her degree from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1960. She began a fulfilling and accomplished career in education as a Business Education teacher at Narbonne High School in Harbor City, California. It was there she met her future husband, Gerald "Bud" Horn.

Avalee's deep passion for education and dedication to student success led her to Gardena High School, where she served as a counselor and career advisor. Her work earned her numerous awards and commendations. In 1984, she returned to Narbonne High School as Assistant Principal and Secondary Counselor. She faithfully served the Los Angeles Unified School District for 32 years before retiring in December 1992.

In retirement, Avalee pursued her lifelong love of sewing by founding the Newport Beach Neighborhood Sewing Guild, part of the American Sewing Guild. She held many leadership roles within the organization and remained actively involved until 2020. The guild continues to thrive today, a testament to her vision, leadership, and lasting impact.

Avalee and Bud shared many joys in life, including golf, bowling, and cheering on USC football.

She is lovingly remembered by her brother, Dennis (Beverly) Metcalf; sisters, Cheryl (Terry) VanCleve and Corene (Milton) Aunan; step-daughter, Kathy Grizzell; step-granddaughter, Kimberly (Steve) Truong; brother-in-law, Ken (Beverly) Horn; two step-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; and ten nieces and nephews, with whom she shared many cherished memories.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gerald "Bud" Horn; her parents, Kenneth and Geraldine "Gerry" Metcalf; her stepson, Michael Horn; brother-in-law, Tom Horn; and her stepson-in-law, Forbes Grizzell.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Avalee Metcalf Horn will be laid to rest at Willow Township Cemetery in Holly Springs, Iowa.

Online at [www.MemorialServicesOfIowa.com](http://www.MemorialServicesOfIowa.com)

or stole!  
artificial intelligence, act as dozens or even hundreds of students. They join classes and remain enrolled until they receive their financial aid checks. The fake students often take up limited spots in classes actual students need to take, creating headaches for both students and staff.

Although any financial aid goes toward tuition first, low-income community college students pay little or no tuition in California, mean-

percentage points.

Although 31% of applicants were deemed likely fraudulent last year, that doesn't mean 31% of students in the community college system are fake, noted John Hetts, the executive vice chancellor for research, analytics and data for California Community Colleges.

Hetts emphasized to The Times earlier this year that those fraudulent applicants were detected and then shut out of the system, preventing them from enrolling and stealing financial aid.

Officials said individual campuses' improvements in detecting fraud had increased the percentage of fake applications that were stopped — but there have also been more attempts.

The around 30% of applicants that were probably fake in 2024 represent about 85% of fraudulent attempts, according to Chris Ferguson, the executive vice chancellor of finance and strategic initiatives, who spoke at last month's Board of Governors meeting.

Data from the chancellor's office show that about \$8.4 million in federal aid and \$2.7 million in state aid were stolen by scammers in 2024.

That's only a "very, very small percentage" of total aid that's disbursed at California's community colleges, according to officials from the chancellor's office. In 2024 through 2025 to date, students received roughly \$2 billion in total aid from all federal sources, including loans and Pell Grants, and about \$1.5 billion in state aid, the officials said.

From January through mid-April of this year, \$4 million in federal aid and more than \$760,000 in state aid have been disbursed and written off as fraud by California community colleges, according to chancellor's office data.

With more than 2.1 million students who collectively receive billions in aid, Hetts said his office was "fairly proud" of its record.

"We can absolutely get better. There's no question. Any dollar we lose, we don't want to lose that dollar, but we are fighting really hard," he said, and the "vast majority of attempts" are stopped.

#### What's being done to stop the scams?

Officials at the chancellor's office said they couldn't share the specific mitigating measures they had put into place to detect and prevent application, enrollment and financial aid fraud, but they said they were undertaking a "complete redesign" of the application system.

The new system, which they hope to roll out by spring semester 2026, will have integrated fraud detection tools. Ferguson said if fraudsters are stopped at the application stage, it would have a "downstream impact" of preventing enrollment and financial aid fraud.

Jason Williams, an assistant inspector general at the Department of Education's Office of Inspector General, said financial aid fraud is not a new phenomenon; neither is it exclusive to California. His office investigates fraud rings across the country that target community colleges for their lower tuition costs, which means scammers can collect a larger chunk of leftover financial aid dollars compared to a more expensive school.

But "as we change and close loopholes, they find new ones," Williams said. "We have to make sure that we're evolving with the fraud and make sure we're keeping up with what's going on so we can continue to be effective."

Williams said the fight against fraud could become

asked the Supreme Court earlier this month to leave the layoffs in place.

The department's Office of Inspector General has not been affected by layoffs, but it has lost about 20% of its workforce since the beginning of the fiscal year last fall because of deferred resignations and voluntary buyout programs that were offered to all federal employees when Trump took office, officials said.

That decrease in staffing is having a noticeable impact, Williams said, especially as the federal hiring freeze is preventing the team from filling crucial roles.

Amid the layoff turmoil, the workload will likely increase for the department as it institutes a new procedure to combat fraud.

The Education Department announced this month it's implementing a new rule that would require financial aid applicants to present, either in person or in a live videoconference, an unexpired, valid, government-issued photo identification to their school, and the school must preserve a copy. The change will go into effect in the fall, and in the interim, colleges will have to validate the identity of certain first-time applicants who are enrolled in the summer term.

"When rampant fraud is taking aid away from eligible students, disrupting the operations of colleges, and ripping off taxpayers, we have a responsibility to act," Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said in a news release announcing the change.

As for the creation of a \$10 application fee at California's community colleges to combat fraud, it's a "potential consideration and not a foregone conclusion" for now, a spokesperson for the chancellor's office told The Times. Any new fee must be authorized by state statute.

Staff at the chancellor's office said they are not trying to create an obstacle for hopeful students, just hoping to put up an additional barrier for fraudsters.

The fee is not being discussed as a potential revenue source, and officials said it could potentially be waived, refunded or credited to students with demonstrated financial hardship.

There was "great deliberation" over the fee at the May board meeting, said Jory Hadsell, an executive at the chancellor's office focused on strategic technology initiatives, "but also a sense that we need to move with urgency to safeguard the access for all of our students."

The system now works with the IT security company ID.me to help verify identities of applicants. But at the individual college level, staff and faculty have become familiar with the process of determining whether their students are real by checking for "authentic engagement" in classes, according to Hetts from the chancellor's office.

They're also more familiar with some of the tricks fraudsters try to pull. One person attempting to enroll in the L.A. Community College District came to an in-person meeting to verify their identity and presented a California driver's license with the weight listed in kilograms, said Nicole Albo-Lopez, the deputy chancellor of LACCD.

Examples like this remind her that although the students in these schemes are not real, the people behind the scams are.

"This isn't just a computer or a robot out there," Albo-Lopez said. "These are real people that are committing these crimes, and technology has been weaponized to attack other sectors. Higher education just happens to be the one they're focused on right now."



### Nancy Young

Nancy Schwartz Young, age 84, passed away on June 23, 2025, in Los Angeles, California. Born on January 11, 1941, in Beverly Hills, California, a fifth-generation Los Angelena, Nancy lived a life defined by creativity and compassion.

With her BA and MFA, Nancy taught special needs students and was a ceramic artist, sculptor, and poet. A lifelong advocate for children's rights, Nancy parented more than three dozen foster children and foreign exchange students. New Economics For Women honored her as Mother of the Year.

Her artistry was matched by her activism: from early anti-war protests and women's rights campaigns to later efforts championing affordable housing in Honolulu. She rescued two public housing projects and convinced the Hawaii legislature to allocate \$2 million for their rehabilitation.

She is survived by her husband, Mike Young, their children Caprice, Joshua, and Daniel, and five grandchildren. Those who knew Nancy will remember her sprightly energy, bold intellectual determination, sharp wit, love of puns, unmatched capacity to plan other people's lives, and unshakable optimism.

Her Celebration of Life will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 9 am HST/noon PT/3 pm ET.



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of the burglary were released on no cognizance, defectors' objections. Maier, Dominguez, and Kupihaneapeahi remain in custody. County Jail at \$50,000. and McLaughlin arraigned Friday. The defendants were arraigned July 9 and 10.

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**Graphic Designer needed by Tech Jacob Cong, in Beverly Hills, CA to create advtg. & visual comm. Req. Bachelor's in Design, or rel. or foreign equiv, + 2 yrs. exp. as Graphic Designer, or rel. Exp. must include in prod, managing photo shoots & event mkt in design for event promotions, social media, corp. collateral & video's; & in print prod. to transfer design. Wage \$50K-\$58K. To apply, send resume to esther@techjacob.org. Principals only.**

**Graphic Designer:** Req. BFA or Rel. Wage: \$60,000/yr Mail resume: 5 Points Exhibts, Inc. 11908 Washington Blvd Santa Fe Springs, CA 90606

**The Cheesecake Factory, Inc.** in Calabasas CA seeks an Information Security Manager to dlpv security programs. No trvl. WFH must be able to attend meetings in the office, as required. Salary: \$98654 / yr. Send CV: [mfreeberg@thecheesecakefactory.com](mailto:mfreeberg@thecheesecakefactory.com)

**Operations Manager:** Req'd. BA in Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture or related. Mail Resume: Yag Jun Dong Bang, Inc. 2320 W. Olympic Blvd. Ste 100 Los Angeles, CA 90006

**IT Project Manager:** Req'd. MS in Info. Tech, Engineering, or related. Mail Resume: Pacific Focus, Inc. 13904 Equitable Rd, Cerritos, CA 90703

**Manager, Accounting at GoodRx, Inc., Santa Monica, CA** Manage monthly, quarterly and year-end close processes. Telecom. Salary: 10-15%. Salary: \$131,830/yr. Please apply at <https://careers.hkra.com> Ref: CNA-PERM.

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**Manager, Analytics Systems (IT Commercial Applications)** Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd., Santa Clarita, CA, Resp for strategic dsgn, tecnhl & orgnztlal needs, enrgy scbty & effncny. Pstrg rgrs a Bchr's dgr or frgn qvnt in Comp Sci, Engnng Infrrmtn Technl, or rlt d. 4 yrs of exp in the job offrd or as T. Srvcs Spclst Infrrmtn Technl Engnr, or rlt d. Mst hve 4 yrs of exp in each of the following skills: Microsoft Windows 11, Microsoft Office 365, Apple iOS & Mac OS, Mac & Mac clients & rsptvc mgt plfrms (Microsoft Endpoint Manager, JAMF Pro, and SOTI); Scrn Agile methodologies; Wrkng on hrdwr IT srvc mgmnt; Bdgtng; & wrkng wth vndrs. Dmstc & intrnl trvl req'd. To apply, please email resume to LAS-HR@kpff.com and reference Job# 101.

**Lead Data Engineer – positions offered by Mercury Insurance Services, LLC (d/b/a Mercury Insurance Group) (Los Angeles, CA)** Create production data pipelines for advanced analytics & data science teams. Offering salary range of \$125,000 to \$195,000/yr. Up to 15% dmstc trvl req'd. Lead efforts to identify process improvements. Audit Mgr, REF#8709002-\$92,000.00/yr to \$156,800.00/yr. Above 4 positions (REF# 8396827, 7109173, 8288439, 8709002) are hybrid positions requiring work in the office w/ the ability to telecommute on days when not in the office. Email resume w/REF# to [TalentAcquisition.cnb.com](http://TalentAcquisition.cnb.com). Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrhsp. EOE

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Los Angeles Times

# ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

**Thirty-five years  
after 'Days of  
Thunder,' the  
hard-charging 'F1'  
producer talks fast  
cars, blockbusters  
and the state of  
Hollywood**

**JERRY****BRUCKHEIMER IS****STILL  
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RACE**



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

# The Bruckheimer formula

AT 81, THE MEGA-PRODUCER IS NOT STEPPING OFF THE GAS. THE HOLLYWOOD VETERAN BREAKS DOWN HIS LATEST ADRENALINE RUSH 'FI' AND EXPLAINS WHY THE MOVIE BUSINESS ISN'T GOING AWAY. **BY JOSH ROTTENBERG**

until "Maverick" reminded Hollywood how potent that formula could still be.

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After decades in the business, Bruckheimer says he has learned to choose collaborators carefully. "Life's too short," he offers. "We're such a small business, your reputation follows you everywhere you go."

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July 24-27

Hed See and Cary Stevens in Griselle Photo: Rosalind O'Connor

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# The Bruckheimer formula

AT 81, THE MEGA-PRODUCER IS NOT STEPPING OFF THE GAS. THE HOLLYWOOD VETERAN BREAKS DOWN HIS LATEST ADRENALINE RUSH 'F1' AND EXPLAINS WHY THE MOVIE BUSINESS ISN'T GOING AWAY. BY JOSH ROTTENBERG

**T**HE FIRST thing you notice in Jerry Bruckheimer's Santa Monica office isn't the full-size suit of armor from 2004's "King Arthur" or the shelves lined with awards and celebrity photos. It's the pens: dozens of ornate Montblancs, carefully arranged in display cases.

His wife gives them to him, Bruckheimer explains dryly. After nearly half a century of hits, what do you give the guy who has everything? "I sometimes write thank-you notes with them," he says. Alongside neatly stacked copies of the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Los Angeles Times — which he says he still reads daily, in print — the pens reflect something ingrained in the legendary producer, a fondness for ritual, precision and old-school order.

Now 81, at an age when most of his peers are content to reflect on past glories in between tee times and early-bird specials, Bruckheimer still starts each day with a rigorous workout. ("I pick hotels based on the gym," he says.) Then it's back to doing what he's always done: assembling the next blockbuster. Across more than 50 films — including culture-shaping hits like "Beverly Hills Cop," "Top Gun," "Bad Boys," "The Rock," "Armageddon" and "Pirates of the Caribbean" — his work has earned over \$16 billion worldwide, cementing his name as shorthand for sleek, pulse-pounding entertainment. His elegant, brick-walled office, larger than the Detroit home where his working-class German immigrant parents raised him, stands as a monument to what that discipline helped build. "Our tiny little house was about as big as this room here," he says, glancing around.

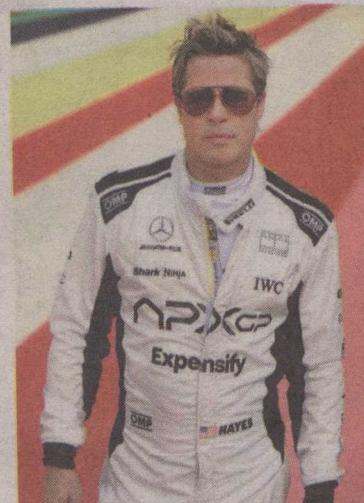
For Bruckheimer, success has never been about flash or chance. "The harder you work," he says, in what amounts to a personal mantra, "the luckier you get."

That philosophy is on full display in his latest production, "F1," an adrenaline-fueled racing drama starring Brad Pitt as a retired Formula One driver lured back to the track to mentor a young phenom (Damson Idris) on a struggling team. Shot during actual Formula One races across Europe and the Middle East, and with a budget north of \$200 million, "F1" sped into theaters Friday with the kind of high-stakes ambition only someone with Bruckheimer's track record could pull off.

From the outset, the project, which reunites Bruckheimer with



Warner Bros. Pictures / Apple Original Films



Warner Bros. Pictures / Apple Original Films



Paramount Pictures via Associated Press

**RACING**  
drama "F1" stars Brad Pitt, above. Bruckheimer also produced "Top Gun: Maverick," with Tom Cruise.

"Top Gun: Maverick" director Joseph Kosinski and screenwriter Ehren Kruger, sparked a bidding war among virtually every studio and streamer, ultimately landing as a co-production between Apple and Warner Bros.

"One of the reasons I went to Jerry," says Kosinski by phone from his car, "is because I knew I was asking two massive corporations — Apple and Formula One — to work together. They're both incredibly specific about their brands and how they do things. It took someone with Jerry's CEO style of producing to be the diplomat in the middle and actually make it happen. He's seen it all."

Bruckheimer attributes the early frenzy around the project to the package's pedigree: an appealing story, an A-list star and the global popularity of Formula One. But for Bruckheimer, it's not just about star power or scale. "It's emotional, it's exciting, it's got romance, it's got humor," he says. "It's the reason I got into this business — to make movies that thrill you on that big screen, that you walk out feeling you've been on a real journey and got lost for a couple of hours. That's the goal every time."

Pitt's character, Sonny, is in some ways a reflection of Bruckheimer: a seasoned pro forever chasing one more victory out of a sheer love of

the chase. "Jerry could easily be on an island somewhere relaxing," says Kosinski. "But he'd much rather be on set every day, meeting actors, hassling the marketing team, dealing with the studio. He just loves the job. His passion for it seems kind of endless."

"F1" arrives at a moment when the Bruckheimer-style movie — star-driven, high-concept, engineered for maximum emotional impact — has surged back into fashion. In truth, it never entirely disappeared. But in an age of franchise fatigue, ironic tentpoles and streaming saturation, the earnest, four-quadrant spectacle had started to feel like a relic —

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Bruckheimer shoot as tough br product of Scott of-the-pants dire was just balls to t "Joe [Kosinski] is too, but calculate thing planned ou on the set and se there and say, 'W we're going over more of a helter- but we somehow held it together.'

By the time "F1" was released in 2022, and Simpson ha decade together but wildly produc already delivered "Beverly Hills Cop." Simpson, with h petite for drugs excess, could be destructive. But credits him with eye for story and understanding really worked.

"I started in a 60-second stori trained as a sto Bruckheimer, w

## PRODUCER

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"It's changed a lot," Bruckheimer says. "Streaming hit a lot of places hard. They spent too much money and now they've got problems with that. Some of the studios aren't healthy. But the business, if you do it right, is healthy."

For all the hand-wringing about collapse, Bruckheimer has heard it before.

"There always was doom," he says. "When TV came in, people said nobody would go to the theaters again. When I started, it was video cassettes. Everyone said that's the end. Then DVDs — that's the end. I've been doing this over 50 years and that doom has been there every time a new technology shows up. And yet, look at what's happened. Look at 'Minecraft.' Look at 'Sinners.' Look at 'Lilo & Stitch.' If you do it right, people show up."

He reaches for one of his favorite analogies: "You've got a kitchen at home, right? But you still like to go out to eat. You want to taste something different. That's what we are. We're the night out," he says. "And if we give you a good meal, you'll come back for more."

By any measure, Bruckheimer has already accomplished more than almost anyone in the business, with a far-reaching empire that spans television ("CSI," "The Amazing Race"), video games and sports. In addition to big-budget tentpoles, he has occasionally championed more grounded, character-driven

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

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**F**1 IS NOT Bruckheimer's first time around the racing track. Thirty-five years ago, at the height of his era-defining run with his late producing partner Don Simpson, he made "Days of Thunder," a testosterone-fueled NASCAR drama that reunited the "Top Gun" team of Tom Cruise and director Tony Scott. The film epitomized the Bruckheimer-Simpson formula: glossy visuals, radio-ready soundtracks and MTV-style swagger. Tales of ballooning costs, nonstop rewrites, off-screen indulgence and on-set clashes swirled around the production, becoming the stuff of Hollywood lore.

Asked about the chaos surrounding "Days of Thunder," Bruckheimer answers with his trademark restraint, the measured calm of someone who has spent decades managing egos, headlines and costly productions.

"There were definitely rewrites — that's true," he says. "As far as the budget going up, Paramount had a strict regime, and it's not like you could go over budget easily. We wrecked a lot of cars, I'll tell you that. I don't think there was one standing at the end."

Bruckheimer remembers the shoot as tough but exhilarating, a

Segerstrom Center Presents

# American Ballet Theatre's Giselle with Pacific Symphony

July 24–27

Heidi Stöckli and Christopher Stearns in Giselle. Photo: Rosalie O'Connor



"American Ballet Theatre's best, most moving classical production."

— New York Post

**Segerstrom Center for the Arts**

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Giselle is presented with generous support from Elizabeth Segerstrom, The Center's International Dance Series is made possible by the Audrey Steele Burnand Endowed Fund for International Dance and The Segerstrom Foundation Endowment for Great Performances.

KAISER PERMANENTE

CASAMIGOS TEQUILA

RIVIERA MEXICO

## The First 5 Years

*A Guide to Early Learning*

## The First 5 Years

*What to Know and When for Reading Readiness*

Reading

Los Angeles Times

WSCE

# WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

# PIE SUMMER

Your guide to expert crust and making  
the most of the season's peak berries. L6-8





## SOCIETY



A view of two green building projects in Nanjing, Jiangsu province. WANG LUXIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Leading a green life makes absolute sense on all levels

**A**s China pursues its dual-carbon goals and as people become more conscious of the importance of environmental sustainability, the green building industry is poised for significant growth.

Dual carbon goals refers to the country's targets of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

Green building means a building that conserves resources to the utmost — such as energy, land, water and materials — protects the environment and reduces pollution.

Behind the rise of green building, more and more people are pursuing a greener lifestyle, with practices such as using their own mugs or bottles when buying coffee.

Moreover, cafes and restaurants following the principle of leadership in energy and environmental design, or LEED, are becoming highly popular as shoppers pay special attention to whether stores identify as adopting LEED practices.

The LEED rating system, devised by the United States Green Building Council, assesses the degree to which a building is environmentally friendly, uses energy-efficient equipment, renewable energies or other technologies that reduce the negative impacts of

buildings on the environment. In Middle Urumqi Road in Shanghai's Jing'an district, there is the world's first LEED Zero Energy pharmacy. It stores certain drugs in refrigerators, keeping them at a constant temperature and humidity. The refrigerators are energy-saving and use environmentally friendly refrigerant.

"In terms of daily routine work, we adopt a series of online internal and external office systems to reduce the generation of paper waste," said Yang Ge, senior vice-president of Cowell Health, the parent company of Cowell — the LEED Zero Energy pharmacy.

"Not only in our stores, but also in our office and logistics systems, we have gradually achieved paperless and electronic documentation, as well as the use of recyclable turnover boxes. In addition, for unavoidable waste such as pharmaceutical packaging, we conduct detailed classification and collection in accordance with LEED requirements to better realize the resource utilization of garbage."

Many food and beverage companies are now scaling up their green building efforts. The Chinese coffee chain Luckin Coffee owns three LEED gold-level outlets,

in Xiamen, Fujian province, in Tianjin and in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. The outlets are greener in terms of design and construction.

Based on the degree to which buildings meet certain criteria in categories such as energy efficiency, water conservation and indoor environmental quality, there are four levels of LEED certification: certified (40-49 points), silver (50-59 points), gold (60-79 points) and platinum (80+ points).

Luckin was also the first Chinese coffee brand to acquire LEED platinum-level certification. Its 20,000th outlet, in Beijing's Zhongguancun, was built according to LEED platinum-level standards during the design and construction stages and acquired certification last year.

With intelligent energy monitoring and energy-saving equipment, the outlet's energy efficiency has been significantly improved, and energy conservation and emissions reductions have been promoted. With the help of a fresh air system and intelligent LED lighting, consumers can have a more comfortable shopping experience in the store.

McDonald's China owns the largest number of LEED-certified projects globally.

Over 3,600 outlets in China are LEED certified, accounting for more than half of its total in the country, covering 29 provincial-level regions in the Chinese mainland.

"With McDonald's China's large scale and rapid pace of expansion, we have developed a standardized and replicable LEED certification prototype, enabling 100% of our new restaurants to achieve LEED certification standard and continuously lead in green restaurant development," said Doni Ma, vice-president of McDonald's China National Construction, Design, Equipment and Facility.

The U.S. Green Building Council said that the Chinese mainland once again ranked first in the world on its annual list of top 10 countries and regions for LEED last year. It was the ninth year in a row that the Chinese mainland has topped the list.

The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the U.S. making significant strides in healthy, sustainable building design, construction and operations. Last year 1,860 LEED green building projects, representing more than 269 million square feet of space, were LEED-certified in the Chinese mainland.

— ZHENG YIRAN

## Mindful citizens get with the low-carbon program

Low-carbon living has become a habit for Wei Ying, 36, of Wuhan, Hubei province, but she was surprised when her lifestyle choices such as riding rental bicycles and recycling her trash contributed to a reduction in a bank loan.

On April 28 she offset 90 yuan (\$12) from her monthly mortgage payment with



have collectively led to a reduction of about 265,300 short tons in carbon dioxide emissions, said Shanxi Green Trading Center Co., the operator of the mini program. The center, which Shanxi province established 13 years ago, supervises carbon trading in the province.

Liu Zelong, director of the center, said it continues to

## Express deliveries surge spurs eco shift

With express delivery ubiquitous in China, public and private sectors are taking steps to reduce packaging waste and forge a more sustainable path.

The 174.5 billion deliveries in the country last year were the most for any country for the 11th straight year, and 21% more than in 2023.

In 2022 alone about 9.92 billion packaging boxes and about 55.71 billion feet of tape were used by China's express delivery industry, the State Post Bureau says.

This has raised growing concerns about the environmental impact of packaging waste and excessive material consumption.

The State Council has called on express delivery companies to promote greener, reduced and reusable express packaging from June 1. This requirement stresses that environmentally friendly, biodegradable and reusable materials should be used in express delivery packaging.

In recent years express delivery companies in China and postal authorities have endeavored to reduce material use, recycle packaging materials and develop degradable materials.

Express delivery companies typically repack goods using their own branded boxes, but more recently some shipments have been made using original boxes to save on excess packaging.

Gao Jiaqi, in charge of JD Express' intelligent logistics park in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, said direct shipments are becoming more commonplace.

"When goods arrive at our warehouses from the manufacturers, we ship them directly to consumers without any repackaging," Gao said. JD Express is the logistics branch of the e-commerce company JD.

In total, direct shipment helped JD Express reduce the number of repackaged items by 1 billion last year.

ZTO Express, another express delivery company, has been promoting the same practice. "All warehouses give priority to shipping goods in their original packaging from merchants," said Xu Yonggui, head of the marketing and branding department of ZTO Cloud Warehouse Supply Technology.

Despite more efficient material use, single-use packaging still generates a significant amount of waste. To extend the life cycle of boxes, express delivery companies and postal services have introduced reusable circulation boxes.

Reusable plastic boxes are circulating in logistics stations of JD Express, SF Express and Deppon Express for inter-station transportation, avoiding single-use packaging.

# SUNDAY COMICS

Los Angeles Times  
JUNE 29, 2025

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**DOONESBURY** By Garry Trudeau



WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, I RODE MY TRICYCLE DOWN A FLIGHT OF CEMENT STAIRS AND GOT BONKED ON MY NOGGIN.



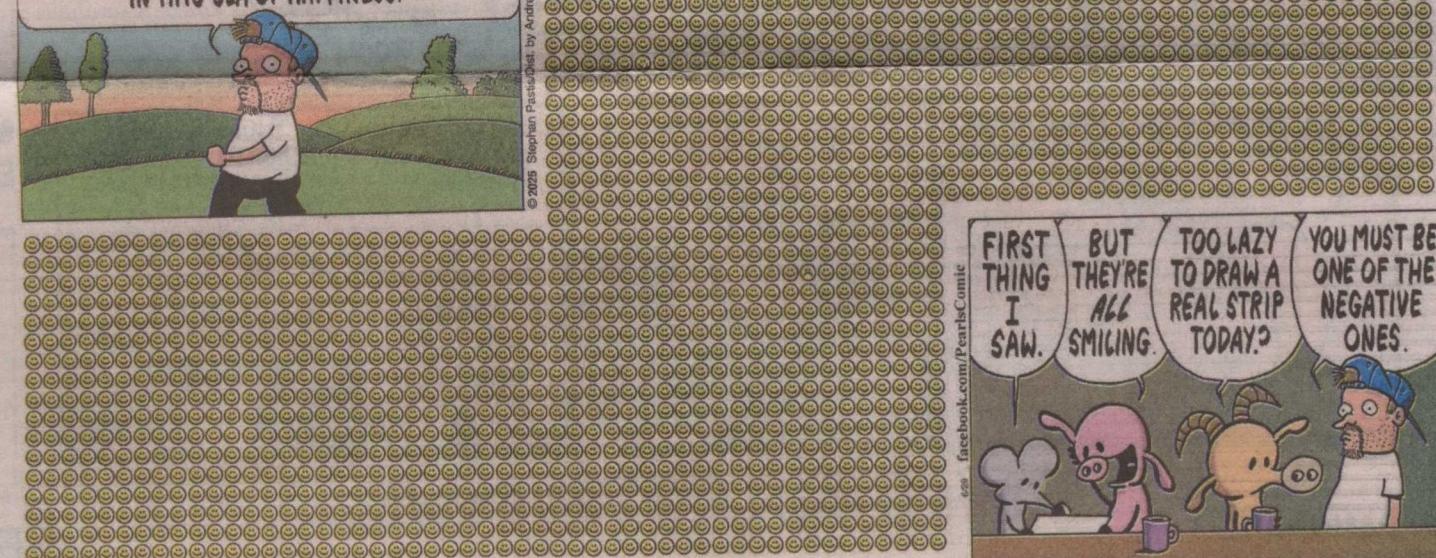
**CRABGRASS** By Tauhid Bondia



**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** By Stephan Pastis



THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THESE DAYS WHO ONLY SEE THE NEGATIVE IN EVERYTHING. SEE IF YOU'RE ONE OF THEM BY FINDING THE ONE UNHAPPY FACE IN THIS SEA OF HAPPINESS.



I WAS PULLING SOMETHING OFF A SHELF IN THE GARAGE YESTERDAY AND A MONKEY WRENCH FELL ON MY HEAD.



THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN A LOT ABOUT GRAMPA.





WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, I ROPE MY TRICYCLE DOWN A FLIGHT OF CEMENT STAIRS AND GOT BONKED ON MY NOGGIN.

HOW'D YOU GET THIS SCAR ON YOUR HEAD? I FELL OUT OF A SHOPPING CART WHEN I WAS TWO.

AND WHAT'S THIS BIG BUMP OVER HERE FROM?

I WAS PULLING SOMETHING OFF A SHELF IN THE GARAGE YESTERDAY AND A MONKEY WRENCH FELL ON MY HEAD.

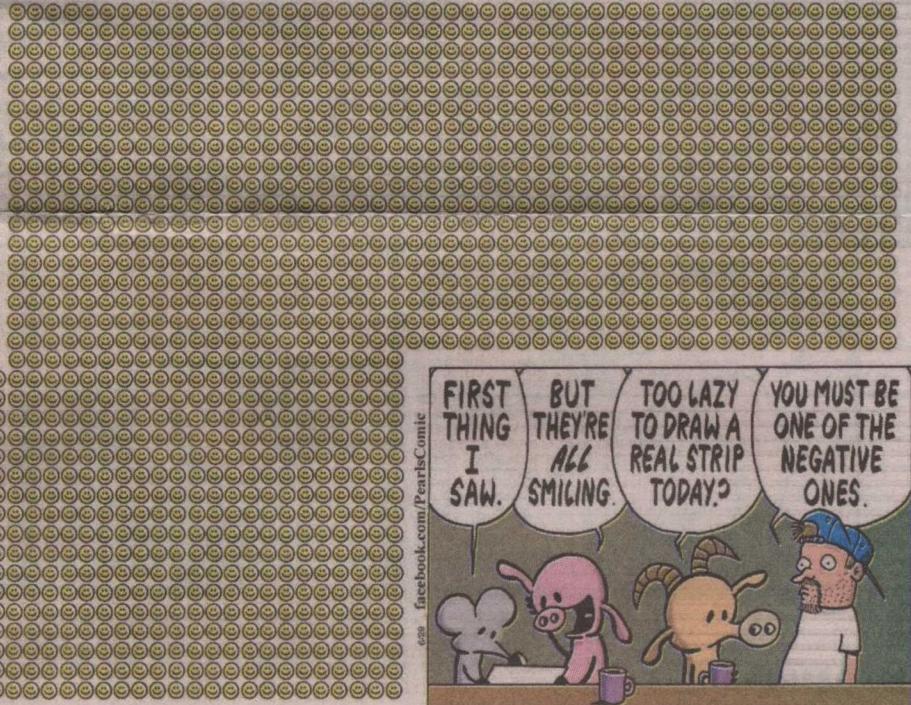
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## CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

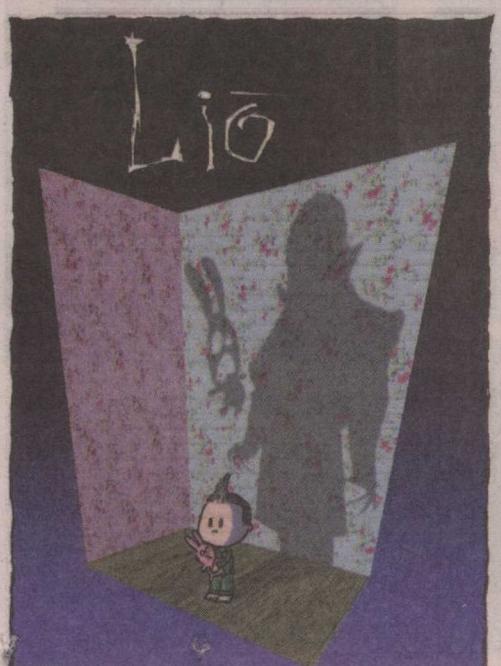
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THESE DAYS WHO ONLY SEE THE NEGATIVE IN EVERYTHING. SEE IF YOU'RE ONE OF THEM BY FINDING THE ONE UNHAPPY FACE IN THIS SEA OF HAPPINESS.



FIRST THING BUT TOO LAZY TO DRAW A REAL STRIP TODAY? YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE NEGATIVE ONES.



## LA CUCARACHA BY LALO ALCARAZ

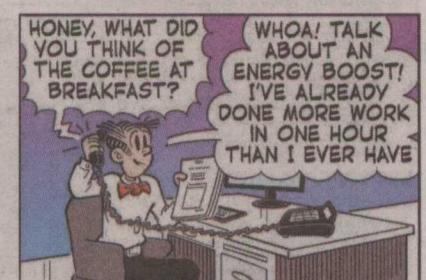


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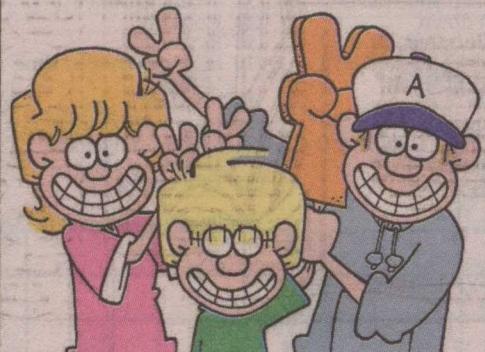
**MUTTS** By Patrick McDonnell**ZITS** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**BABY BLUES** By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott**MACANUDO** By Liniers**BLONDIE**By Dean Young  
& John Marshall**MARMADUKE**

By Brad &amp; Paul Anderson



# FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



## JASON'S JUMBLE™ Brainiac Edition!!!

Unscramble the numbers to reveal...

The atomic number of Nobelium

□ □ 210

The number of feet in 9 miles

□ □ □ □ 05274

The year Apollo 13 launched

□ □ □ 7091

The 83<sup>rd</sup>-87<sup>th</sup> decimal places of π

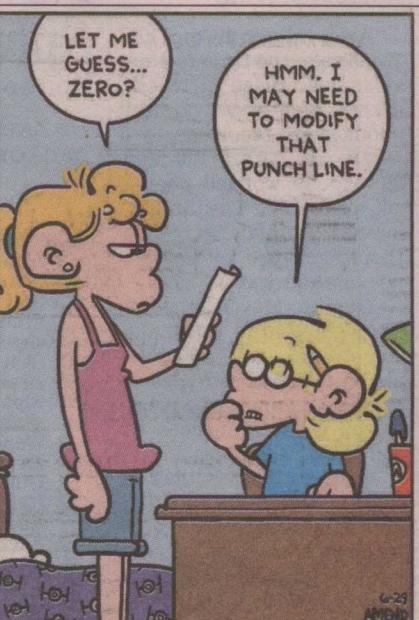
□ □ □ 42308



The odds of Paige Fox getting any of this right...

□ □ percent

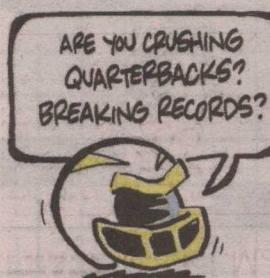
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## JUMP START

Starring JOE &amp; MARCY

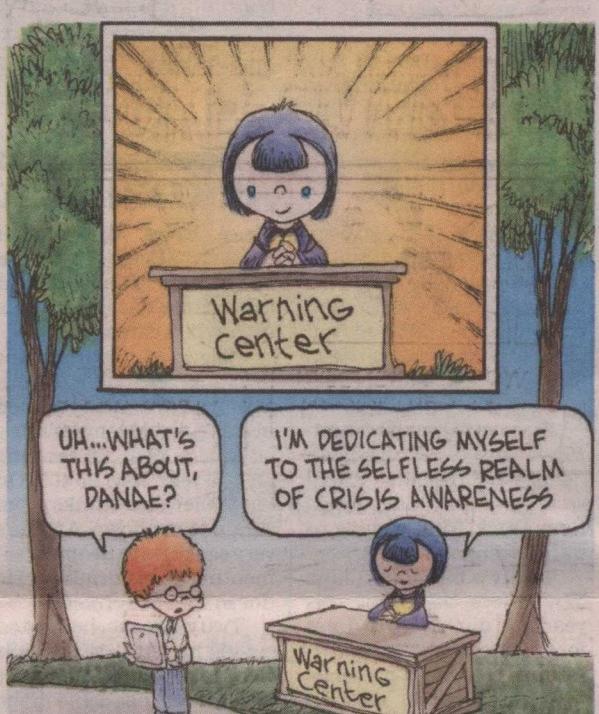
BY ROB RAKASTROWICZ



IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



CURTIS By Ray Billingsley



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

